REPORT
OUR KEYS TO IMPACT

ACTIVITY

2022
Philanthropy is a key driver in contributing to a world that is more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable. This firm belief prompts Fondation de France to encourage everyone to commit to the common good. Its mission is to support everyone’s willingness to act and transform it into effective actions, in all non-profit sectors.

Key figures

- 977 donor-advised funds
- 55 regional foundations
- 235 staff
- 70 partner companies
- 573 volunteers
- 12,168 charitable projects
- 277 million euros to implement
- 649,921 donors active over the past four years
- 649,921

For 50 years, Fondation de France and the foundations it shelters have supported over 200,000 projects in all of the domains of public interest.

Contents

Editorials .................................................. 4

2022 highlights ........................................... 6

Our keys to impact ........................................ 9

1 Act for all causes ................................. 10

2 Act at the roots of problems ............... 14

3 Act on the long-term ......................... 17

4 Act together ........................................ 21

Financial report ................................. 24

Our organization ............................ 28
In the past year, did the planet get closer to a “more peaceful inclusive, and sustainable world” to which Fondation de France strives to contribute?

The war alone, on the European continent itself, is enough to make the outlook gloomier with its processions of victims and terrible destruction, with uncertainty weighing on all our societies as well as internationally.

Rarely have we experienced, with such acuteness, so many simultaneous and radical changes as we have today. We see them in geopolitical strategies, energy and economic models, demographic perspectives, political behaviors, and so on. Uprheavals generate fragmentation, sometimes division, and almost everywhere, collective forms of action are being challenged.

The spirit of cooperation tends to give way to opposing forces and even conflict. Collective governance suffers from a lack of coherence. The inability to join the dots, together with low levels of inclusion, and little appetite for action or sometimes even simply dialogue, make our ambition towards a shared purpose rather difficult.

This year’s Fondation de France activity report stands as a witness to its vocation. In 2022, its capacity to mobilize collectively has been reinforced through multiple means: by strongly encouraging everyone’s willingness to act and turning it into collective projects; by combining short-term imperatives with long-term activities; by making its service to all causes its core ambition; by sharing a concern for the common good and for the belief that coordination and interdisciplinarity are key to effectiveness; by tirelessly searching for ever more relevance and regularly redefining its missions and operational methods by being able to combine agility with longer procedures and serious management.

Data from 2022 clearly shows this momentum: a rise of 40% in the distribution of funds, the creation of 85 new donor advised funds, and a very substantial increase in donations. Thanks to the robustness of its finances, the trust that founders and donors place in it, and the quality of its programs, Fondation de France is more than ever ready to contribute to solutions to the major challenges faced both by our societies and planet.

For us to act at the root of these issues, we keep up a constant dialogue with grassroots actors to respond to their needs and build sustainable solutions capable of producing significant societal shifts.

To further understand the challenges that cut across society and to stimulate thinking on the philanthropic sector’s role, responsibility, and work we have broadened the scope of our Observatories. Now more than ever, we are convinced that philanthropy has a part to play and valuable contributions to make, thanks to its power to innovate, its agility, and its ability to act both on the short and on the long terms.

To enhance our collective action, we are working even more closely with donor-advised funds and all of our stakeholders, both government agencies and non-profits. This is our line of action for 2023 as we continue with perseverance and enthusiasm to encourage dialogue and contributions from everyone, working together for a fairer world where no one is left behind.

“A UNIQUE GOAL: SERVING all the causes”
An evening for medical research

Grand Prizes rewarding researchers

On March 22, Fondation de France organized an evening for medical research at Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine in Paris. This was an opportunity to review research projects supported by Fondation de France in two fields in particular: health and the environment, and Parkinson’s disease.

Professor Arnaud Fontanet, epidemiologist at Institut Pasteur, presented his work on long Covid. Two Grand Prizes were awarded: the first to Sandrine Humbert for her neuro-development project on Huntington’s disease and the second to Raphaël Margueron, winner of the Grand Prize for Junior research.

Find out more about the evening’s highlights on our website.

Laureates Concert

Celebrating 14 young musicians

On April 7, at the National Conservatory of Music and Dance in Paris, prizes and grants were granted by the Drouet-Bourgeois, François-Louis Baradat, Macari Lepeuve, Marie Dauphin de Vernois, Monique Gabus, Monique Rollin and the Yves Bireux-Ustianetz foundations. Awards recognized 14 talented young musicians, music scholars and composers. Virtuoso performances were at play all night long!

Les Nuits du Bien Commun

Encouraging generosity at the community level

Four minutes: that’s all the time each non-profit at the event had to present their projects and convince donors of its impact at the Nuits du Bien Commun event (Nights for the Common Good). Co-organized by Obole and Fondation de France’s regional foundations in Lille, Marseille, Lyon and Toulouse, these events aim to encourage inclusive projects on a local scale and to enable people wishing to contribute to the dynamism of their community to support them.

The Philanthropy Barometer

The number of foundations and endowment funds has more than doubled in 20 years

In April 2022, Fondation de France published the 2022 Annual Philanthropy Barometer produced by its Philanthropy Observatory. Its latest edition stands witness to the sector’s vitality, despite two years of pandemic. With the number of entities increasing, and greater economic weight, the urge to act for the common good has never been so strong in the past 20 years.

Read the barometer in full on our website.

Solidarity with Ukraine

Strong mobilization from the Fondation de France network

On February 28, Fondation de France launched a call for funds to support those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. Thanks to a great outpouring of generosity from individual and corporate donors, as well as donor-advised funds, more than 16 million euros has already been raised, providing support for more than 300 projects, two thirds of which are based in Ukraine.

Founders’ Meetings

Reinforcing the impact of their work

On March 31, the Longchamp château in Paris welcomed 140 representatives of donor-advised funds for their founders’ third meeting. The aim of the day was to think through the major challenges of our societies with insights from experts on the best ways to face them collectively, by reinforcing the impact of our founders’ work.

An evening for medical research

Les Nuits du Bien Commun

The Philanthropy Barometer

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

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Parity
A challenge for French foundations and endowment funds
In the past 20 years, gender equality has gained ground in public interest foundations with 30% of women in boards in 2021, compared to 10% in 2001. Though this is an advancement, it is certainly not enough as parity has not been achieved. This is one of the lessons learned from our study published in November 2022, reviewing the place of women in the governance of foundations and endowment funds. This study was also the first issue of our new collection, Philanthropy and Society, produced by the Philanthropy Observatory to think about the role, position and responsibilities of philanthropy in today's context.

How can we take effective action in a deeply shifting world?
Climate catastrophes, rising inequality, greater vulnerability of populations in the face of accelerating economic and social changes... With so many and urgent challenges needing to be met, Fondation de France is keen to build practical and sustainable solutions, capable of changing society in depth.
Our ambition is to build a more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world.

Four key principles embody both its principles for action and the uniqueness of its commitment.

#Gems
Celebrating solidarity
Each year, Fondation de France identifies and supports more than 10,000 solidarity initiatives in all areas of the non-profit sector. Throughout France, associations get involved and innovate, contributing with practical and effective responses to society's concerns and issues. Throughout the summer several national media including TF1, RTL and La Croix, acknowledged 18 projects as "gems" which were present at a major event organized by Fondation de France on October 4 at Ground Control in Paris.

Find out more about these gems on our website

L'Université de la Terre
Life in time of major shifts
A partner to the 2022 Université de la Terre (University of the Earth) conference organized at UNESCO in Paris on November 25-26, Fondation de France attended several sessions focusing on the major issues associated with the environmental transition. On this occasion, it present the results of a new survey on young people's engagement. French demographer Jérôme Fourquet opened the session with the award of the Déclics Jeunes contest. 29 young people aged 18-30 were on stage, rewarded for their projects by the 2022 jury president Sarah Ourahmoune.

Find out more about the 2022 Déclics Jeunes winners on our website

Reawakening solidarity
Fondation de France’s fight to combat loneliness
At Christmas and during holiday periods, loneliness is even more difficult to experience for those most vulnerable. In 2022, Fondation de France continues to respond readily to this key issue, supporting local non-profits, which throughout France put their energy into organizing dinners, cookery workshops, shows for children, gifts and takeaway meals distributions. In total more than 120 initiatives were supported to reinforce sharing and mutual assistance between beneficiaries and residents of local communities.

Read our study on parity on our website

Read the Solitudes (Loneliness) study in full on our website

OUR KEYS TO IMPACT

Act 1 for all causes
Act 2 at the roots of problems
Act 3 on the long term
Act 4 together
Take action for all causes

Vulnerability, employment, inequality, immigration and climate change: society’s greatest challenges are increasingly interconnected. The proliferation of world crises over the past few years reminds us of these issues with ever-increasing acuteness. The health crisis linked to Covid-19 exposed the latent fragility of millions of people and highlighted the extent to which issues of health, poverty, isolation, housing, access to digital tools and mental health are all intertwined. In early 2023, the deadly earthquake which hit Turkey and Syria reminded us again of it all.

These multiple challenges play out on the global arena, and it has now become clear how interdependent and multifactorial they are. They require a global approach to identify the best levers for action and develop long-term solutions, capable of transforming society significantly. This multicausal approach has been at the heart of Fondation de France’s work since its creation. By supporting projects in all non-profit fields, and by encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogue, Fondation de France works with a 360° vision to reinforce its impact and engagement.

In an increasingly complex world, having different specialties is an asset for creating synergies, working with partners, testing ideas and scaling them up and down. A clear case in point is our Inventer Demain (Inventing the Future) Program, which helps nonprofits over the long-term and demonstrates the efficacy of their solution.

The fight against all forms of vulnerability confers Fondation de France a unique expertise when identifying innovative initiatives that lead to change. Fondation de France can mobilize the best experts, cutting across various disciplines to think and build permanent and systemic solutions, collectively. In an increasingly complex world, having different specialties is an asset for creating synergies, working with partners, testing ideas and scaling them up or down. A clear case in point is our Inventer Demain (Inventing the Future) Program, which helps nonprofits over the long-term and demonstrates the efficacy of their solution.

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Zone sensible
An urban farm for community-building

In 2017, in Saint-Denis, the Parti Poétique collective took over the last part of agricultural land just outside of Paris. Its name, Zone Sensible (“Sensitive Zone”), describes an urban farm, which is now a hybrid space, focusing on the nature/culture/food triangle. From producing fruit and vegetables to organizing art performances and trainings on permaculture this place is banking on breaking down disciplinary silos to promote meetings between community residents, volunteer farmers and artists in residence. Their strong belief is that we need to rethink our relationship with the Earth to build a societal model that is more sustainable and inclusive.
Created in 2018, the Fondation territoriale des Lumières brings together 10 private and semi-private stakeholders from the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments, focusing on one objective: revitalizing employment and daily lives in the mining areas by working closely with affected populations. This foundation has taken over the Mine d’Idées (Mine of Ideas) Program launched by Fondation de France, which, for the past five years had created new solidarity initiatives in the area of Lens Liévin and Hénin Carvin. Fondation Territoriale des Lumières has already supported close to 65 projects from various industry sectors, such as social housing and healthcare. Among the results has been the improvement of public transport in these areas thanks to making community bikes and taxis available, contributing to young people’s access to labor by organizing training in the construction sector, or installing community fridges in the streets for those facing most hardship (see the interview with Dominique Soyer on page 31).

Program Convergence
No one is unemployable
Bridging the gap that deprives people from having a meaningful and lasting job is the challenge of the Convergence Program, which is both simple and highly ambitious. The project, born out of the Emmaüs Défi (the Emmaus Challenge), a job training initiative supported by Fondation de France, is based on the firm belief that no one is “unemployable” and inclusion requires action on several fronts. Focusing on housing, healthcare and advocacy, the program supports people employed in job training initiatives over the long-term with a global approach and tackles the obstacles to accessing the labor market. Tested in Paris, the program has now been deployed in 42 communities throughout France with 53 initiatives involving 2,645 people.

“You can’t fight cardiovascular disease without changing lifestyles.”

“Cardiovascular disease, which is generated by a number of factors, is the second cause of mortality in France. This makes its management complex and difficult. Beyond genetic antecedents, we now know that several environmental factors such as smoking, junk food and the absence of physical activity strongly increases the risk of a cardiovascular accident. This is also true of certain metabolic disorders, such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension. Only a global approach involving several disciplines can help us reduce the number and severity of these diseases. This is precisely one of the core aspects of Fondation de France’s Cardiovascular Disease Program, supporting research at the crossroads of medicine, research and epidemiology. This multidisciplinary approach, unique in France, can have a real impact on prevention and improvement of patients’ quality of life.”

Patrick Henry
Cardiologist and unit head at the Lariboisière Hospital, member of the Cardiovascular Disease Committee at Fondation de France
Act at the roots of problems

In order to meet the great challenges of the future, why do we need a new, more global and transformative approach?

The key issues we need to deal with are increasingly interdependent. We can’t tackle climate change, health hazards, food quality, welcome centers for refugees and great poverty with sector-based programs. Faced with these unprecedented problems, their broad scope and characteristics, we need to think in terms of action systems and design, invent and test solutions that are transformative and no longer simply remedial or preventive. This is what we call systemic change.

What does this approach consist in? And why is it promising?

Let’s take an example. Every day, the non-profit Point d’Eau (Water Point) welcomes more than 200 homeless people. They find what they need for hygiene in welcoming premises, as well as luggage lockers, a kitchen area, advocacy information meetings, and healthcare professionals. Six people who use these services are members of the non-profit’s board of directors and nearly 80 former “rough sleepers” have become volunteers. Responding to additional needs in a single place encourages taking into account the entirety of a complex situation, which homeless people experience on a daily basis. This systemic approach consists of activating a process, which does not limit itself to treating problems’ symptoms, but also seeks to tackle their causes and preconceived ideas. In this example, leaving poverty and exclusion behind becomes possible, by leveraging access to training and housing or regaining self-confidence. It does not just limit itself to making these more bearable.

What does this way of tackling problems at the roots involve in practical terms?

What this approach requires is for every stakeholder to step out of their “bubble”, create partnerships and incorporate the multiple interactions among environmental, social, recognition, contribution and governance issues. To get there, non-profits need time to define and update their field of work, identify and liaise with other players, anticipate needs, factor in any impact on the ecosystem and test new approaches. Taking action together, over time, for all causes and at their roots are totally interconnected keys that unlock action.

How do philanthropy players, and in particular, the Fondation de France network, have a fundamental role to play in the development of this systemic approach?

Philanthropy plays a strategic role, thanks to its ability to guide test phases when solutions are being fine-tuned. Government agencies feel more comfortable when procedures are stabilized and enter the realm of common law. Proximity, trust, the multiple interactions between civil society and foundations are assets that need to be actively cultivated.

What if cities were to reinvent themselves through their inhabitant’s creativity?

Since 2013, the non-profit Yes We Camp is temporarily taking over urban zones that are either available or in transition, to turn them into areas dedicated to social innovation. Working with public sector players and community residents, more than 40 sites have been transformed and made available to as many residents as possible. Abandoned hospitals, former youth hostels and industrial wastelands have been transformed into local produce markets, welcome areas for vulnerable populations, training and learning centers or places dedicated to art and creativity. In addition to the projects implemented by Yes We Camp, city dwellers are taking hold of collective spaces and shaping them based on specific needs, thus contributing to social interaction.

Ardian Foundation
The first 1,000 days of life

Children’s first few years are a very important stage in their cognitive, social and emotional development. The possibility of escaping social determinism is also strongest in the first 1,000 days of life. Committed to equal opportunity for underprivileged children and young people, the Ardian Foundation has placed early childhood at the top of its priorities. Inspired by neuroscience research, the foundation is promoting, from birth, the development and fundamental learning blocks for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. For instance, it supports the creation of the Maisons des Mille Premiers Jours (The Thousand Day Houses), with their welcome centers, resource and meeting rooms to help with parenting and raise awareness of early childhood development.

Rainbow Bridge Foundation
Helping exposed populations anticipate risks

Created in 2005 a few months after the tsunami that led to 200,000 deaths in Southeast Asia, the Rainbow Bridge Foundation is engaged in the development of countries affected by this catastrophe. Its work aims to reinforce local populations’ autonomy and develop preventive action. To that end, the foundation contributes to rebuilding housing, orphanages, schools and hospitals by making them more resistant. To ensure that diseases do not propagate, it has also built a water and sanitation network in numerous Indian villages.
In a deeply shifting world, which sometimes experiences drastic jolts, the need for sustainable action is urgent. Fondation de France’s work is twofold: it both responds to emergencies while building sustainable solutions. Fondation de France is keen to develop a philanthropy of change able to navigate the variety and interconnection of causes and topics. This desire for change relies on one key condition: taking the time to work in depth, to build essential cooperations and to develop the tools and knowledge that will produce new projects.

The way to tackle emergencies perfectly illustrates this principle of action: following a natural disaster, Fondation de France contributes to reinforcing local stakeholders’ intervention capacity, for example in terms of construction, or managing traumatic disorders over the long term. It also promotes cooperation among all local stakeholders to better prepare for and act in the event of a disaster.

“"The teen years are a very precarious life stage, which is why intervention needs to be timely. Early identification means quicker care management, which can avoid tragedies. Preventive action on peer-to-peer dialogue is also a good way of changing mentalities on this topic and on the perception of mental disorder."

Marie Trellu-Kane
Unis-Cité President
BioLit

Citizens and scientists united for biodiversity

Better knowledge and protection of marine ecosystems is what the BioLit project is actively aiming for. Citizens to the coast! Supported since 2010 by Fondation de France, this crowd-sourced science program was designed with Planète Mer (Sea Planet) and the French Natural History Museum. It teaches volunteers of all ages from primary school to observe the coastline and send the data collected to scientists. Since its launch, the BioLit program has already involved 20,000 people and 120,000 observations have been made on the status of marine biodiversity. As the program has now been fully recognized by the scientific community for the reliability of its approach, BioLit wants to become a permanent and long-term coastline monitoring platform. Having documented research on the brown algae found in coastal areas, two new observation themes are planned, one on exotic invasive species and the other on sea seasons.

Rehabilitation

Supporting former prisoners towards a new life

rehabilitation, Fondation de France acts during and after the incarceration period to help prisoners build a solid life plan. In particular, it supports Emmaus for its development of farming rehabilitation programs, such as the Moyembrie farm in the north of France. This rehabilitation initiative welcomes prisoners at the end of the sentence for a period of six months to two years. Participants, who are accommodated on site, are trained on farming methods and also relearn social rules, for example by contributing to daily chores. The outcome so far has been that 51% of them has found a job or followed a training program after their stay on the farm whilst the average re-offense rate has decreased by 7%. This rehabilitation program, which is very much a steppingstone from prison to a return to independence, already has five farms of this kind and the hope is to open another five.

Thierry Latran Foundation

15 years of research on Charcot disease

Created in 2008, the Thierry Latran Foundation is a European foundation dedicated to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Charcot disease, a rare neurodegenerative disease which leads to muscle paralysis. The Thierry Latran Foundation has supported medical research on this disease for 15 years and encourages cooperation among scientific committees Europe-wide. 59 research projects have already been funded giving rise to 92 scientific articles on the causes of the disease, and also on treatment options.

Jacques Desproges
Fondation de France Solidarity with the Caribbean Committee President

Vincent Delbos
Fondation de France Prisons Program President

“Acting over the long term after the emergency”

“In a natural disaster situation, Fondation de France’s specific expertise is to be there for those who have lost everything obviously, but also to work over the long term.

In 2017, when hurricane Irma reached the Caribbean and destroyed 80% of housing in Saint Martin, we made an emergency intervention to consolidate and rebuild the houses of the most vulnerable. We also quickly managed to make this work permanent by funding a training program on self rehabilitation for the inhabitants. This is why the Compagnons Bâtisseurs (journeymen Builders) swiftly created a satellite in Saint Martin, which is now well established in the area. Its teams offer local residents practical sessions on best practices for reinforcing their houses’ resistance, with everyone contributing to the resilience of the island’s territory particularly exposed to hurricanes.”

Jacques Desproges
Fondation de France Solidarity with the Caribbean Committee President

“Fondation de France supports the rehabilitation of prisoners over time by guiding them from their first day in prison to leaving it. This approach is vital in combating re-offense.”

59
RESEARCH PROJECTS
FUNDED

51% OF PRISONERS FIND A JOB OR TRAINING PROGRAM
A RE-OFFENSE RATE OF 7%
(COMPAORED TO 63% WITHOUT SUPPORT)
3 questions to

Why create a new program on preparing and responding to crises and disasters?
We are facing a sharp rise in the number of disasters in a wide range of different forms that requires us to adapt our support to each emergency situation. And yet many of these situations, such as hurricanes, can be predicted, as they frequently rip through certain parts of the globe.

The lack of awareness-raising and preparation of the populations concerned regularly results in dramatic consequences. With the Preparing and Responding to Crises and Disasters Program, we wish to develop work upstream to anticipate risks and be fully equipped to respond to them. Of course, the fact that we have a permanent program means that we can cover a greater number of emergency situations, including smaller ones, or those with less media coverage.

How can we develop preparation and prevention?
The first priority is to gain a finer understanding of the risks associated with a region, so that the people concerned as well as local stakeholders learn to use relevant tools thanks to awareness-raising initiatives and get help with making assessments.

We are also looking at developing local communities’ power to act with training projects, skills transfer – in the field of construction, as well as in farming methods or in mental health – and with the purchase of emergency equipment.

Lastly, one of the challenges is to promote networking, encourage local stakeholders to develop cooperation, identify who does what in a “crisis cell” mode. This makes us more reactive and effective in the event of a disaster.

Why does an emergency require such a long-term outlook?
A sustained period of time is key for this type of mission as it requires thought before, during and after the event. Thorough knowledge of the region is critical, as is building trust-based relationships with local communities and promoting the emergence of collaboration to reinforce the power of resilience.

In this area of work, learning and adapting, even tough contexts vary.

“We wish to develop work upstream to anticipate risks, and be fully equipped to respond to them”

Act together

The public interest is everyone’s interest.
This strong belief has driven Fondation de France for more than 50 years. For donors, founders, project leaders, citizens, entrepreneurs, Fondation de France aims to give maximum impact for all the actions envisaged. Although they often come from one person’s individual motivation, it is sharing, cooperating and networking that will turn them into effective projects for the common good.

Taking action together at Fondation de France means reinforcing joint work with and among donor-advised funds, a priority in the years to come. The force of action of 977 donor-advised funds combined increases the capacity of Fondation de France collective action, when responding to increasingly complex challenges in all non-profit sectors.

Developing synergies can translate into action programs, just like Grandir en Lien Avec la Nature (Growing Up with Nature) co-building and implementing innovative initiatives synonymous with a preference for initiatives that bank on cooperation with other regional players. Fondation de France has always been keen to encourage debate, by promoting exchanges among nonprofits, for instance. A very powerful lever regionally can trigger cooperation and come up with new solutions led by several actors on the ground.

Working together also means involving people with projects and decisions relevant to them to reinforce their ability to act. Just like nonprofit Point d’Eau does when it seeks input from homeless people.

In areas like climate change which requires major shifts in the way we live, produce and consume, collective action and involvement of all stakeholders are the conditions of success. No sustainable solution can ever come about without consultation which can lead to conflicting interests, without involvement from citizens who need to adapt to change, without any deep transformation of business players’ priorities.

Promoting collective action is also synonymous with a preference for initiatives that bank on cooperation with other regional players. Fondation de France has always been keen to encourage debate, by promoting exchanges among nonprofits, for instance. A very powerful lever regionally can trigger cooperation and come up with new solutions led by several actors on the ground.

Thank you to the companies and corporate partners who supported us in 2022. Including: Banque Postale Consumer Finance, BNP Paribas, Fondation Faurecia, IF International Foundation, Labeyrie Fine Foods, and special thanks to Banque de France, Groupe Cyrus, Rubis and Société Générale for supporting the Solidarity with Ukraine Program.
“Collective action, the cornerstone of a just, inclusive ecological transition”

Covid, 19, fires, storms, floods, droughts... the succession of environmental crises over the last few years has reminded us how urgent it is to accelerate the transition towards more sustainable lifestyles, production methods, transport and housing.

This transition cannot happen without the concerted action of all stakeholders. It is essential to involve civil society and take into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable populations, who are often the most impacted by climate change. This is true for those living in the Global South but also for the most at-risk populations in the Global North. They need to be able to make their voices heard, to take part in the transition and to reap the benefits, like access to local, high quality food, more energy efficient housing and sustainable transport. A global approach is essential if we are going to transform our methods of production and consumption in a profound way.

The ecological transition is also an opportunity to rethink the governance of “common goods” and natural resources essential to human survival, like water or forests. All actors using or impacted by a particular resource, including civil society, businesses and communities, must be involved so that collective management rules can be defined, conflicts limited and resource protection ensured.

Solidarity with Ukraine
A joint initiative at the European scale

The war in Ukraine is a reminder of the need for effective, joint philanthropic action that reaches beyond borders. Working on a European level, in 2022 Fondation de France created partnerships with foundations that are active in areas impacted by the conflict, including branches of the Carpathian Foundation in Ukraine, Slovakia and Hungary, which finance projects that help Ukrainian refugees. Fondation de France also participated in two European programs. The first, initiated by EPRM (European Programme for Integration and Migration), supports organizations working with migrants and ensures protection for most vulnerable refugees. The second, initiated by Civitates, supports independent journalism and fights disinformation about the war in Ukraine.

Les Petites Cantines
A participatory model to create social cohesion

In France, social isolation concerns 11% of the population. Often, isolation and poverty go hand in hand and further affect social bonds and hope in the future of society. Faced with this huge challenge, Les Petites Cantines (The Little Cafeterias) have a simple recipe: bringing together local inhabitants from specific neighborhood to prepare and share a healthy, well-balanced meal.

Since 2016, the association has brought together over 20,000 people with very different origins and lives, including families, workers, job seekers, isolated older people and students with limited financial resources, and everyone else interested in joining. According to Diane Dupré la Tour, the cofounder of Les Petites Cantines, this inclusive approach has created a virtuous circle: “The price for meals is not fixed and each participant pays what they can. Those who wish can pitch in by cooking, doing dishes, setting the table... This participatory set up encourages guests to join in, facilitates conversations, and offers a feeling of social unity. The Petites Cantines experience is evidence that an economic model based on trust can be sustainable and create jobs.”

Art as Experience
Encouraging co-creation to empower vulnerable people

Encouraging cooperation between artists, vulnerable people and education, health and social services professionals – such is the goal of “Art as Experience,” one of two priority initiatives of the Arts and Society Program at Fondation de France. Its objective is to support artistic co-creation projects between people coming from different worlds to create new works, change mindsets, and reinforce social cohesion. Like the p’t’v’c project, which was born out of a collaboration between the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Shonen dance company, care professionals, and children with disabilities. The goal is to make performance accessible to vulnerable people and to change the way the public views disabilities. Last October, a first live performance was held under the auspices of the Théâtre du Châtelet, bringing together professional dancers, children with motor disabilities and robots driven remotely from the bedrooms of children with severe disabilities.
After, 2021, a year when the world was turned upside down by the Covid-19 crisis, 2022 brought a new slew of challenges. Geopolitically, war returned to Europe. Environmentally, the effects of climate change gave rise to episodes of drought, extreme heat, as well as multiple wildfires and floods. Socially, the effects of inflation meant increased precarity for many.

In spite of this difficult context, Fondation de France has accelerated its activities. In 2022, it supported over 12,000 projects for a total of 277 million euros, representing an increase of 41% in comparison with 2021. Thanks to these positive results, Fondation de France was able to intervene in all the not-for-profit sectors, including solidarity with Ukrainian populations affected by the war, help for vulnerable people, funds for medical research, as well as support and guidance for sustainable agriculture practices to protect the planet.

The desire to commit to the common good was also seen in the creation of 55 new donor-advised funds, bringing the total number of such funds to 977 at the end of 2022.

Finally, the careful management of Fondation de France’s holdings and of its donor-advised funds limited asset volatility – in spite of a marked downturn in the financial markets – and generated income that made it possible to contribute to operating costs and allocate resources for charitable activities.

In spite of this difficult context, Fondation de France accelerated its activities.
“In 2022, Fondation de France has once again been able to face the major events of our times with proactivity, innovation and mobilization, taking lasting action in all non-profit sectors.

The commitment and effectiveness behind this savoir-faire will help us face the challenges to come. 2023 started with an earthquake that devastated populations and territories in Turkey and Syria. Once more, Fondation de France was able to promptly mobilize and respond. Energized by its financial solidity and its teams’ skills, it continues its actions responding to urgent needs, whilst working on the longer term both in France and internationally.”

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**Balance Sheet**

*The balance sheet summarizes the asset position, at historical cost, of all the entities managed by Fondation de France, including its 977 donor-advised funds.*

**Key assets**

Financial assets represent 74% of the assets in the balance sheet of Fondation de France and its donor-advised funds. Financial assets are composed of diversified investments: shares, bonds, banking products and unlisted securities, mostly from OECD countries. This reflects the fact that Fondation de France has chosen an investment strategy combining prudence and performance. The entire investment portfolio complies with extra-financial ESG criteria (environmental, social and governance).

**Asset allocation**

- **Monetary assets**: 48%
- **Real estate**: 10%
- **Bonds**: 13%
- **Other assets**: 7%
- **Stocks**: 22%

**Liability breakdown**

- **Debts and provisions**: 8%
- **Dedicated funds and funds carried forward**: 23%
- **Own funds**: 69%

Fondation de France and its donor-advised funds have a strong and high-quality balance sheet, with their own funds representing 69% of all assets. Available-for-sale financial assets represent the largest part of these. Dedicated funds are made up of the resources that donors and testators have granted to action programs led by Fondation de France and donor-advised funds and that had not been used by the end of the financial year. Funds carried forward correspond to bequests, life insurance and temporary usufruct donations that have been accepted by Fondation de France and its donor-advised funds but not yet cashed.

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**Profit and loss statement**

*The profit and loss statement consists of income and use of income according to its destination, which is the most pertinent information regarding the activities of Fondation de France and sector-wide practices.*

**Income breakdown**

- **Donations**: 51%
- **Other income linked to public generosity**: 29%
- **Bequests, gifts and life insurance**: 20%

In 2022, donations rose to €185m compared to €134m in 2021. In 2022, they represented 51% of Fondation de France’s income. Two exceptional fund-raising drives partially explain this increase: Solidarity with Ukraine, which raised €16m, and ZEvent, which raised €10m.

**Other income linked to public generosity**

- **Bequests, gifts and life insurance policies**, including resources allocated to endowment funds, totaled €73m, a decrease of €54m compared to 2021. 2021 had indeed benefited from two exceptional bequests that were accepted in 2019 and 2020.

**Use of income**

- **Charitable activities**: 90%
- **Operating costs**: 7%
- **Fundraising costs**: 3%

Charitable activities totaled €277m (€197m in 2021), representing 90% of use of funds: €190m for projects implemented by donor-advised funds; €83m for projects carried out as part of Fondation de France programs and €4m paid to partner organizations, as part of transnational activity. The increase in charitable activities was mainly supported by the donor-advised funds, which increased their activity by €40m. In addition, €8m were raised during the Solidarity with Ukraine campaign, and €7m during the ZEvent campaign.

**Fundraising costs**

- **Total**: €131m, equaling 2021. These included fundraising campaigns costs, processing costs for donations and bequests, as well as the staffing costs of those directly involved in these activities.

**Operating costs**

- **Total**: €21m, an increase of €3m compared to 2021. This figure includes IT costs, organizational communication costs and the general expenses required to run the operations of Fondation de France and its donor-advised funds.
Executive Committee 2022

Committees are at the heart of a rigorous management approach

Fondation de France has set up a comprehensive internal control mechanism. Five internal committees monitor the use of funds. These are the Finance Committee, the Audit Committee, the Donation Committee, the Committee Supervising Individual Funds Governed by Fondation de France and the Remuneration Committee. A statutory auditor certifies the accuracy and transparency of financial statements.

Transparency in the use of funds

Donors, testators and founders may allocate their gifts to one or several causes. Fondation de France ensures that their wishes are followed scrupulously and commits to providing them with information on various media (website, social media, quarterly newsletters, personal letters) and reporting back on the work undertaken. For instance, emergency operations are subject to regular reviews, which are accessible online and sent to donors. Finally, an activity and financial report shows the balance sheet for each fiscal year and sketches out the perspectives for the year ahead.

External oversight

Since 2015, Fondation de France has benefited from IDEAS certification (the Institute for the Development of Ethics and Action for Solidarity) which recognizes good practices in governance, financial management and action effectiveness in France. Fondation de France is also subjected to several external controls (statutory auditor, French Court of Audit and Ministry of Finance). In 2021, in its report on how Fondation de France is managed, the French Court of Audit praised the quality of the established procedures, which “guarantee the reliable processing of donations,” “control costs” during fundraising and “fully secure generosity management, especially in respect to bequests.”

The Board of Directors

Members of the Fondation de France Board of Directors – December 2022

President
Pierre Sellier*
French Ambassador

Vice-president
Pascale Rousseau-Dewambrecht*
President, Bordeaux Atlantique Committee, Fondation de France Sud Ouest

Members
Bruno Anges*
Chief Executive Officer, AG2R La Mondiale
Christian de Boisdefre
General Administrator of Public Finance, French Ministry of the Economy and Finance
Bruno Chetaille
Former Chief Executive Officer of Médiamétrie
Pierre Chevalier
Director of Legal and Tax Affairs of the Caisse des Dépôts Group
Christophe Devy*
Representative of the French Prime Minister and Councilor of State
Frédéric Donnedieu de Vabres
Partner, Arsene Taxand and President of the Fondation Arsene
Yann Dyrre
Inspector General of Education, Sport and Research, French Ministry for Sports, Youth, Popular Education and Community Life
Marie Aurore de Fabre
Head of the Associations and Foundations Office, French Ministry of the Interior
Lionel Farci
Director of Private and Corporate Accounts, Neufize OBC
Véronique Faujour
Secretary General, Crédit Agricole SA

* Bureau members

Members

Pierre Sellier*
French Ambassador

Anne Florette
General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development, French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition
Hafida Guennouf-Duval
Brand/Publicity Director, Charitable Giving and Sponsoring, Société Générale
Michel Mathieu
Chief Executive Officer, LCL
Leïla Phelouzat
French Ministry of Culture
Léa Morgant
Head of Philanthropy, Secretary General, French Ministry of Culture
Leïla Phelouzat
Secretary General, Caisse d’Épargne Prévoyance Ile-de-France
Jean-François Saga*
Notary, President of SAS Thibierge Notaires, Inspector General of Education, Sport and Research, French Ministry for Sports, Youth, Popular Education and Community Life
Anne Florette
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Secretary General, Caisse d’Épargne Prévoyance Ile-de-France
Jean-François Saga*
Notary, President of SAS Thibierge Notaires, Professor, Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas
Dominique Soyer
Director of Development, Hauts-de-France, CDC Habitat
Odon Vallet
Historian, Professor, La Sorbonne

Vice-president
René Ricol*
President, Nicol Lasteyrie & Associés
Treasurer
Yves Perrier*
President, Amundi Board of Directors

* Bureau members
Two perspectives...

Véronique Faujour and Dominique Soyer, members of the Board of Directors, give us their view of their mission and Fondation de France’s role.

Véronique Faujour
Secretary General of Crédit Agricole SA, and member of Fondation de France’s Board of Directors since 2021

“What struck me when I became familiar with Fondation de France from the inside is its incredible agility, even during chaotic times. It reacted very quickly to help victims of the war in Ukraine, as it is now doing after the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Above all, I became aware of the vast scope of this organization, especially regarding the range of its involvement, and I could see for myself just how rapid and agile it could be in terms of its capacity to react and make decisions. The strength of a judoka combined with the agility of a gymnast – that’s what I found here. I feel like I am at the heart of a system that makes a difference, one that both aims towards operational efficiency and seeks to make an impact, as well as to guide its donor-advised funds.

For the last 18 months, I have also participated in discussions regarding the Foundation’s strategic direction, a continuous search for improvement in the way we lead our missions. When confronted with new challenges that are sometimes difficult to comprehend, the Foundation constantly seeks ways to adjust its activities and adapt to have the most impact possible.

My mission as a member of the Board of Directors resonates with the work I do elsewhere, including the Crédit Agricole foundations, in particular, as executive director of the Fondation Grameen Crédit Agricole, which deploys microcredit activities in 40 countries around the world. At Crédit Agricole, social responsibility is 100% integrated into its activities. It’s in the DNA of this mutual bank."

Dominique Soyer
Director of Development, Hauts-de-France, CDC Habitat, and member of Fondation de France’s Board of Directors since 2020

confirm its commitment to local communities. This completely resonates with my involvement in the Fondation Territoriale des Lumières, which is located in France’s northern mining region and since 2018 has followed the lead of Fondation de France’s Mine d’Idées (Ideas Mine) Program. Several local enterprises (public housing agencies, insurance companies, construction companies, etc.) have decided to take over and continue support community initiatives developing in the region. I completely agree with this local, partnership-oriented view of philanthropy. Mine d’Idées has paved the way, showing how it is possible to look for community-run projects in a disadvantaged region. The Fondation Territoriale des Lumières, which will celebrate its fifth birthday in April 2023, is a true success, having supported 65 projects and raised €600,000.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I hope to continue to encourage this dual dimension of partnerships and local communities, which is essential to implementing effective actions across different regions. This can take them form of alliances between several foundations such as with the Call&Care platform, launched in 2021 by seven large foundations in the Hauts-de-France region to fight all forms of early school leaving. It can also mean encouraging businesses to come together to create new regional foundations. I now want to capitalize on the success of the Fondation Territoriale des Lumières to pass on this regional foundation model, supported by several regional enterprises that wish to get involved. These communities of committed stakeholders speak directly to the regions’ needs. Entrepreneurs know their territories and their needs, and by working together they can act effectively. Yes, I believe the role of ambassador of the regional foundation model suits me very well."

 Presidents of specific committees

1. Audit Committee: Frédéric Donnedieu de Vabres (Partner, Arsene Taxand and President, Fondation Arsen)
2. Remuneration Committee: Pierre Sellal (French Ambassador)
3. Finance Committee: Yves Perrier (President of the Board of Directors of Amundi)
4. Donation Committee: Jean-François Sagaut (Notary and President of SAS Trésoriers Notaires, Professor, Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas)
5. Executive Committee: Christophe Davys (Representative of the French Prime Minister and Councilor of State)
6. Supervising Committee: Supervising Individual Funds Governed by Fondation de France: Véronique Faujour and Dominique Soyer, members of the Board of Directors, give us their view of their mission and Fondation de France’s role.
Véronique Fayet, President of the Solidarity with Migrants Committee

You have been the president of the Solidarity with Migrants Committee since July 2022. Why have you made this commitment at Fondation de France?

First of all, it is a matter of confidence—I have a lot of respect for Antoine Paumard, my predecessor, and I am aware of his commitment to migrants. When he called me to suggest that I succeed him, I did not hesitate. My mission at the head of the Secours Catholique was completed and I wanted to continue the fight.

I also knew Fondation de France and how serious its impact is, having seen its calls for projects when I was an elected official in Bordeaux. At the time, the inclusive aspect of its approach struck me. Its concern with involving vulnerable people in the programs designed for them was also very impressive.

What is specific about the crisis in Ukraine, and what are the needs it has created?

Before the war, Ukraine was experiencing economic growth and a sustained digital transformation, which helped accelerate the ability to engage and offer solidarity. Mutual aid organizations already existed in Ukraine, but with the influx of refugees and internal displacements, they took on a whole other dimension. So the challenge has been to identify and support these local initiatives. It has also been essential to protect the most vulnerable groups: women, children, LGBTI+ people, elderly and disabled people, as well as minorities like the Roma. Finally, we have also supported actions to help host countries deal with the influx of new arrivals—an essential step to avoid future tensions and build a more peaceful tomorrow.

A year after the beginning of the program, how are things looking? What needs to be done still?

The conflict continues and is getting increasingly complex, so we must continually adapt. For example, we had to anticipate the coming winter over since July, to finance projects to buy generators. Another major issue has been educating children and ensuring their integration in their host countries, which is still problematic. Many children are not in school and are thus socially isolated.

Any other thoughts about this past year?

In the face of the horrors of war, hope and solidarity continue to keep people going. Dostoyevsky said “the darker the right, the brighter the stars.” These bursts of humanity in face of the horrors of war, hope and solidarity continue to keep people going. Dostoyevsky said “the darker the right, the brighter the stars.” These bursts of humanity were striking me. Its concern with involving vulnerable people in the programs designed for them was also very impressive.

What are the challenges facing the Solidarity with Migrants program?

Wars, famines, natural catastrophes... reasons to migrate are multiple and long-term. These tragedies are becoming normalized, forcing millions of people to leave their home country. In France, numerous citizens and non-profits are mobilizing to host migrants in a way that makes them feel welcome while preserving their dignity. These actions are absolutely essential in a context where living conditions for migrants are deteriorating. Our role is to encourage the “non-profit spirit.” We tend to work with nonprofits that are non-profit driven, having seen its calls for projects when I was an elected official in Bordeaux. At the time, the inclusive aspect of its approach struck me. Its concern with involving vulnerable people in the programs designed for them was also very impressive.

What were some projects that had a particular impact in 2022?

To fight prejudice, you must overcome fear, and the best way to do that is to favor encounters. We supported projects that promote social cohesion, whether this means encouraging families to host migrants, literacy projects, or organizing social events to meet and connect, like our New Year’s Eve night, the brighter the stars.” These bursts of humanity in face of the horrors of war, hope and solidarity continue to keep people going. Dostoyevsky said “the darker the right, the brighter the stars.” These bursts of humanity have an impact in 2022?

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What was your motivation for accepting this position with the Solidarity with Ukraine Committee?

I have been doing humanitarian work since 1997 and I never expected to see another conflict of this scope at the gates of Europe. There is nothing more inhuman than war and it was traumatizing to see this horror reappear on February 24. So I very much wanted to do something for the millions of people affected by the war in Ukraine with Fondation de France.

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“The best responses spring from proximity to realities in the field”

For Fondation de France Région Nord, as for the five other regional foundations, local involvement leads to close contact with actors on the ground, those who hope to effect lasting change in the face of regional realities. On the Opal Coast in northwestern France, the massive and continual arrival of thousands of exiled people who seek to reach England is one of the complex issues facing the North region.

In 2022, two collective projects were launched to come up with new responses, thanks to the support of Fondation de France volunteers with substantial expertise regarding migrants and local context. One project is implemented by the Plateforme des Soutiens aux Migrants et Migrantes (Support Platform for Migrants), in partnership with the University of Lille. This program led to the creation of a university diploma in mediation and interpretation, specifically designed to respond to issues facing migrants at the border. This skills-building process is both a training opportunity and a way for exiled people to use their skills. It also reinforces the actions of various nonprofits already in the field. The second project encourages collective action to protect non-accompanied minors and is coordinated by the ECPAT network, which works to fight the sexual exploitation of children. This is a large-scale project that involves the long-term commitment of a diversity of actors who work to construct an approach that is specific to these young people.

Another reality that drives us: rural areas far from large cities. It was in Thierache, in the Aisne department, that Fondation de France made its mark in 2022. It offered guidance to six local businesses who wanted to join forces to support remarkable initiatives addressing social issues in their region. Fondation Envol d’Agr Ensemble in Thierache thus joined Fondation de France’s donor-advised regional foundation network. At the core of their work is the belief that local and collective roots reinforce their projects’ impact.

This growing network in the northern region now includes Fondation Territoriale des Lumières, Fondation Reflets d’Opale and Fondation du Nord. Collective action was the watchword of 2022, as was also illustrated by a project named Call&Care. Launched in 2021, this alliance includes six regional foundations, the Nord department and a collective of some 50 businesses. This public-private partnership raised €1.3m for collective projects to address the issue of early school leaving among young people.

All of these projects addressing pressing needs were made possible by the involvement and commitment of thirty volunteers based all over the region. They identified specific populations’ needs and the actors who could respond to those needs, offering guidance and contributing to the development of collective regional philanthropy.

Laure Decouvelaere
Executive Director, Fondation de France Région Nord


A regional presence for acting locally

THE YEAR 2022 WAS THE YEAR OF COLLECTIVE ACTION. IN 2022, FONDATION DE FRANCE’S SIX REGIONAL FOUNDATIONS REINFORCED THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO ACT AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE IN THE FACE OF REGIONAL CHALLENGES.