



# Building on our Success

A Child for All  
2021 Annual Report



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# Table of Contents

A Brief History: 2

Executive Summary: 4

Accomplishments: 6

Childrens' Status: 10

2021 Revenue: 14

2021 Expenses: 16

Future Plans: 18



# A Brief History

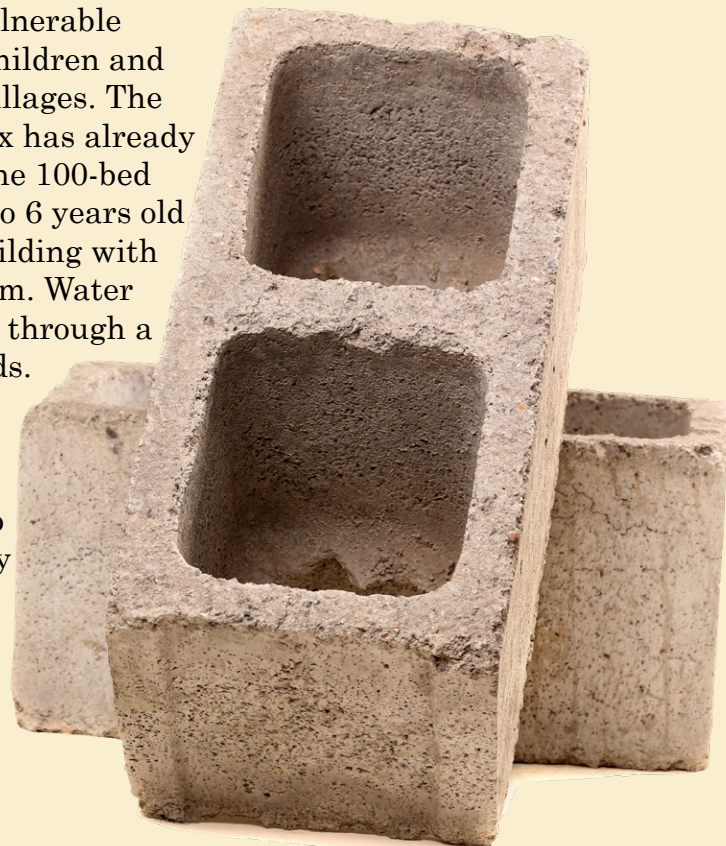
**Sometimes it takes a world to raise a child.**

Sometimes it takes a world to raise a child. Haunted by memories of children living and begging in the streets of her native Mali, CEO and Founder of A Child for All (ACFA), Kadiatou Sidibe, had a dream — not only to take vulnerable children in Mali off the streets — but to provide them with all the tools they would need to have a fulfilling life.

And thus, in 2008, A Child for All was started as a U.S. non-profit with operations in Mali. In the thirteen (13) years since then, the dream has become a successful reality. ACFA began by providing a home to 12 children in the 3-room house where Kadiatou grew up. For the first time, these children attended school, played sports, had a roof over their heads and food in their bellies — and experienced success almost immediately. Within a few years, the twelve children were doing well in school, and many were winning medals in taekwondo and fencing. Several years later, the impact of Kadiatou's vision is growing.

**ACFA has built the first phase of a significant complex...**

ACFA has built the first phase of a significant complex on five acres of land in the village of Zorokoro, which will eventually serve 100 vulnerable children and thousands of children and adults in the surrounding villages. The Zorokoro Children's Complex has already completed the first part of the 100-bed dormitory. Children ages 3 to 6 years old live in this solar-paneled building with caring staff to look after them. Water is provided in the dormitory through a well on the Complex grounds. The first two buildings of a school which will serve kindergarten through 9th grade are complete with two kindergarten classes already in operation. Parents from the surrounding villages eagerly try to have their children attend this school. This is a true success story.



With the help of USAID/ASHA funding for commodities (books in English, French, and Bambara, computers, printers, furniture, etc.), a library and computer lab will open soon — although it is temporarily being housed in one of the school buildings. At the same time, ACFA is trying to secure construction funds to build a state-of-the-art library and computer lab. Hopefully, a dining hall, sports complex, and health care clinic will be part of the Zorokoro Children’s Complex in the not too distant future.

**What of the young children who started with ACFA?  
These children are now young adults.**

Awa aspires to be a journalist. She has been interning for a local TV station and passed the rigorous DEF national exam to go to high school. Diakassan is a fencing champion — not only in Mali but internationally. Several of the boys are excellent tailors and jumped in first to sew masks for all the ACFA children when COVID hit and then sewed uniforms for the toddlers attending the kindergarten classes at Zorokoro.



We have had support from both the community in Mali as well as the international community for many years — both in-kind donations of food and clothing and contributions of funds to help build the Zorokoro Children’s Complex. Unfortunately, COVID and political instability in Mali have impacted what the local community can do for ACFA right now.

There is so much more to accomplish to help Kadiatou realize her dream and achieve ACFA’s full potential. We need funding to finish building the Zorokoro Children’s Complex. We need a steady stream of operating funds. With the help of our donors and potential donors, let’s continue this success story and help Kadiatou realize her dream. Kadiatou hopes this success will be replicated around Mali so that no child has to live on the street, not knowing what the future might be, being exposed to danger and an uncertain future.

**There is so much more to accomplish to help Kadiatou realize her dream...**

# Executive Summary

**Sometimes it takes a world to raise a child.**

**With your contributions, ACFA has:**

- Added 10 new vulnerable toddlers to its roster in Mali
- Added a 2nd kindergarten class
- Added an additional kindergarten teacher
- Added new funders with a focus on nutrition and healthy living, including The Katz Foundation
- Added a computer lab with new computers and printers
- Added many new books in both French, English, and Bambara for our community library
- Added new playground equipment
- Added four scholarships for ACFA girls in association with Kickoff Solutions
- Hired a philanthropist and operations coordinator fluent in French and based in Montreal

**With your continued support, ACFA will:**

- Fund and build a permanent community library and computer lab
- Open temporary library and computer lab
- Fund 15 more vulnerable children
- Add an additional kindergarten class
- Add a first grade class
- Add a dining hall
- Hire a skilled operations manager in Mali
- Hire a full-time executive director in the US
- Build and equip a STEM secondary school
- Develop a study tour to the region
- Increase ACFA's visibility in the US with increased emphasis on education



# Accomplishments

As with most organizations, ACFA started 2021 at a slow pace due to the uncertainty of COVID. We were still dealing with the ramifications of the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak that crippled the world. However, this did not stop ACFA from making progress on our many goals.

**In 2021 ACFA was able to have another successful year with the Zorokoro Children's Complex school.**

In 2021 ACFA was able to have another successful year with the Zorokoro Children's Complex school. We opened a second kindergarten class in the fall of 2021 and hired a second kindergarten teacher. By the end of 2021, 26 children from the surrounding villages in addition to the ACFA children were enrolled in the school. Some of the village children were even able to pay a small tuition.

This year we also saw progress on the Zorokoro community school with the completion of the building funded by Orange. This building will temporarily house the library and computer lab. We anticipate the temporary library and computer lab opening in mid-2022. Indeed, thanks to USAID-ASHA, in



2021, we started purchasing books in French , English and Bambara for the library, and ordered furniture, including shelving for the library and desks and chairs for the computer lab and library. We also purchased computers and monitors for the computer lab. Two university interns joined us to work on our Mali database. The database will allow for easy management and support of our children and students.

## **The Children: Education at Bamako**

Classes were initially delayed in 2021 due to COVID. Last year, we had two of the older children pass the DEF – the national exam to attend high school. In 2022 we will have three students in 9th grade and taking the DEF. We had 91% of our children passing to the next grade. Awa has started training in communications and reporting at a local TV station. Koro started tailoring school and is sewing beautiful dresses.





ACFA was approached by an organization in California that works with high school students who wish to volunteer. During the spring semester, a team of high school students taught the children introduction to computer coding once a week using zoom. For a good part of 2021, another high school student from California taught weekly algebra classes using zoom. A bilingual high school student in France interpreted for both classes.

## Zorokoro

SlumAid, a grassroots non-profit based in the UK, provided volunteers via zoom to teach the toddlers English. We also purchased a water fountain for the school. One of our US volunteers conducted some dance lessons with the toddlers via zoom.

## Sports

Due to internal issues, training for the national taekwondo team was stopped for part of the year. Our children were still able to participate in fencing and basketball. Three of our children participated in the fencing tournament, Billy, Sale, and Diakassan. Diakassan received a gold medal in one of the fencing competitions and a monetary award, and maintained her title as Mali champion for the third year in a row!

Kickoff Solutions is a non-profit focusing on enabling the continuity of sport to empower disadvantaged girls. Kickoff Solutions provides 2-year scholarships for girls to participate in sports and provides mentoring for the girls. ACFA was honored to be Kickoff Solutions' choice for their inaugural international outreach, and Kickoff Solutions is providing scholarships to four of the older ACFA girls. Kickoff Solutions meets with the girls every quarter to provide mentoring and check on the girls' progress.



**ACFA was honored to be Kickoff Solutions' choice for their inaugural international outreach**



We were fortunate that none of our children were impacted by COVID. We did have some malaria cases, but all the children have recovered and are healthy.

## **Fundraising And Operations**

ACFA has been actively fundraising by meeting with donors and potential donors, grant writing, and holding fundraisers in the United States. We also have expanded our individual contributions. Due to the pandemic, we had to adjust our fundraising strategies. We were unable to have our traditional annual fundraiser. However, we were able to continue with our fundraising activities online through various campaigns, including our Global Giving campaigns, Giving Tuesday, and applying for various grant opportunities. In 2021 ACFA submitted proposals to multiple governments and organizations, including USAID/ASHA.

In 2021 we brought on a new administrative assistant and a new grant writer. We also had several new volunteers. ACFA saw activity increase with an Education Committee, which met biweekly, and a Fundraising and Communications Committee. We are particularly grateful to Alexandra Laurent for her many hours devoted to the Education Committee.

Some board members stepped down for work-related reasons, and ACFA added several new board members.

ACFA has managed to have an active presence on social media, with posts appearing in Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Our founder and CEO visited Mali for several weeks, spending time with the children and meeting with donors and potential donors. In addition she met with children from the village who attend the Zorokoro school and their parents.

We are proud of the accomplishments of 2021 and the advances we are making in achieving our vision and goal of helping more vulnerable children in Mali. We all know that children are the future, and ACFA hopes that, in a small way, we can make a difference in the lives of the ACFA children and Mali.

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# Childrens' Status

**2021 saw the children of ACFA grow and thrive despite the ongoing political unrest in Mali...**

2021 saw the children of ACFA grow and thrive despite the ongoing political unrest in Mali and the continued threat of COVID-19. A notable event this past year was that, after difficulty due to COVID restrictions, ACFA's CEO, Kadiatou Sidibe, was able to spend three weeks in Mali to assess better the conditions and needs of the children and caregivers on the ground. During her stay in Mali, Kadiatou was able to gain assurances of new donations of sheep to our livestock supply. She also learned that goats would be more sustainable in the long-term, so we have begun the transition away from sheep and towards goats in our livestock portfolio. ACFA also welcomed 31 orange plants, and they have been planted at Zorokoro.

In 2021, there were some changes in the children taken care of by ACFA at the Zorokoro Children's Complex. ACFA welcomed a new addition, a 4-year-old girl, Coumba, who had been living on the streets of Bamako, bringing the total of children residing at Zorokoro to nine (9). Coumba is now living in Zorokoro and enjoying kindergarten at ACFA's school. Towards the end of 2021, the relatives of three of our children sought to have the children back as the family was moving away from the area. Following the departure of Sekou, Salimata, and Adama, in December of 2021, ACFA brought on four young boys: Modibo, Bourama, Diarratigui, and Oumar. Modibo and Diarratigui are brothers entrusted to their grandparents. Still, with the grandparents not being able to care for them during the day, there was a growing fear of them being trafficked and smuggled. Bourama was often left abandoned in his house after the loss of his mother with a father unable to care for him. And Oumar's mother did her best to care for the family with the father, who has a mental illness but often left Oumar wandering the streets.

We are eternally grateful to be allowed to take care of these children and watch as they grow into unique human beings.

COVID and political unrest have impacted the academic year, and due to this, the school year was extended until September 2021. We





opened a second kindergarten class at that time, and Kadiatou joined Mariam as ACFA's second teacher. Dramane assists both teachers. The entire teaching team at Zorokoro is doing a fantastic job with the children and continues to be supported by ACFA's Education Committee. Since opening the school, ACFA has experienced a flood of applications for children to attend the school. By the end of 2021, there were 36 students in the two kindergarten classes, with 26 students attending from the surrounding villages. The school material that we purchased has proved invaluable to the education program allowing us to add practical experience to theoretical studied material.

For our older children in Bamako, we have bolstered their support when necessary to ensure they have the best start possible as they get closer to adulthood and independence. We worked with volunteer high school students from California who taught the older ACFA children algebra and computer coding. This partnership was done with AnnLee Consulting which introduces non-profits to high school students who then volunteer for them. As a result of the first-semester report cards, we implemented mitigating measures for one of our DEF (national exam) candidates, who worked extra hours with tutors



to help improve her grades. In the end, though she was not able to pass the DEF, Koro, with the help and support of ACFA, has found an alternative way forward into adulthood with a Rotary Club Scholarship for tailoring and plans to take the DEF again next year. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for her. Additionally, we are pleased to share that the other two older students did pass their DEF exam!

Awa, who is the first ACFA girl to have passed the DEF, has a love for journalism, leading to her attending hands-on training at a journalism school in Bamako. As a check-in, during Kadiatou's visit, she met the Director of the TV station where Awa is taking her journalism training. He promised to support Awa for a long time. He also mentioned the possibility of receiving a scholarship when she gets her BAC, as he sees potential and great willpower in her. We are proud to see our children continue to excel.

Our children and staff remain safe as we continue to follow adequate protocols. Mali has endured spikes in COVID recently and some instability since the political coup. Additionally, we have had cases of malaria, pneumonia, angina, skin conditions, and colds, all of which were treated. Finally, Ramatoulaye, one of our newer toddlers, has been in the care of optometrists and has been issued a new pair of glasses. She is now seeing clearly!

The children continue to do well in sports. ACFA recently partnered with KickOff Solutions, a US-based non-profit which supports four of ACFA's older girls through sport-related sponsorships. The sponsoring includes financial and non-financial assistance such as leadership development, community support, etc. After Ramadan, taekwondo and basketball practices returned. Diakassan received the silver medal in the Mali Fencing Open and was also selected Mali Champion in fencing for the third year.

Overall, the children are doing amazingly well, and ACFA looks forward to even more success for the children in 2022.

**Awa is the first ACFA girl to have passed the DEF**

**Overall, the children are doing amazingly well, and ACFA looks forward to even more success for the children in 2022.**

# 2021 Revenue

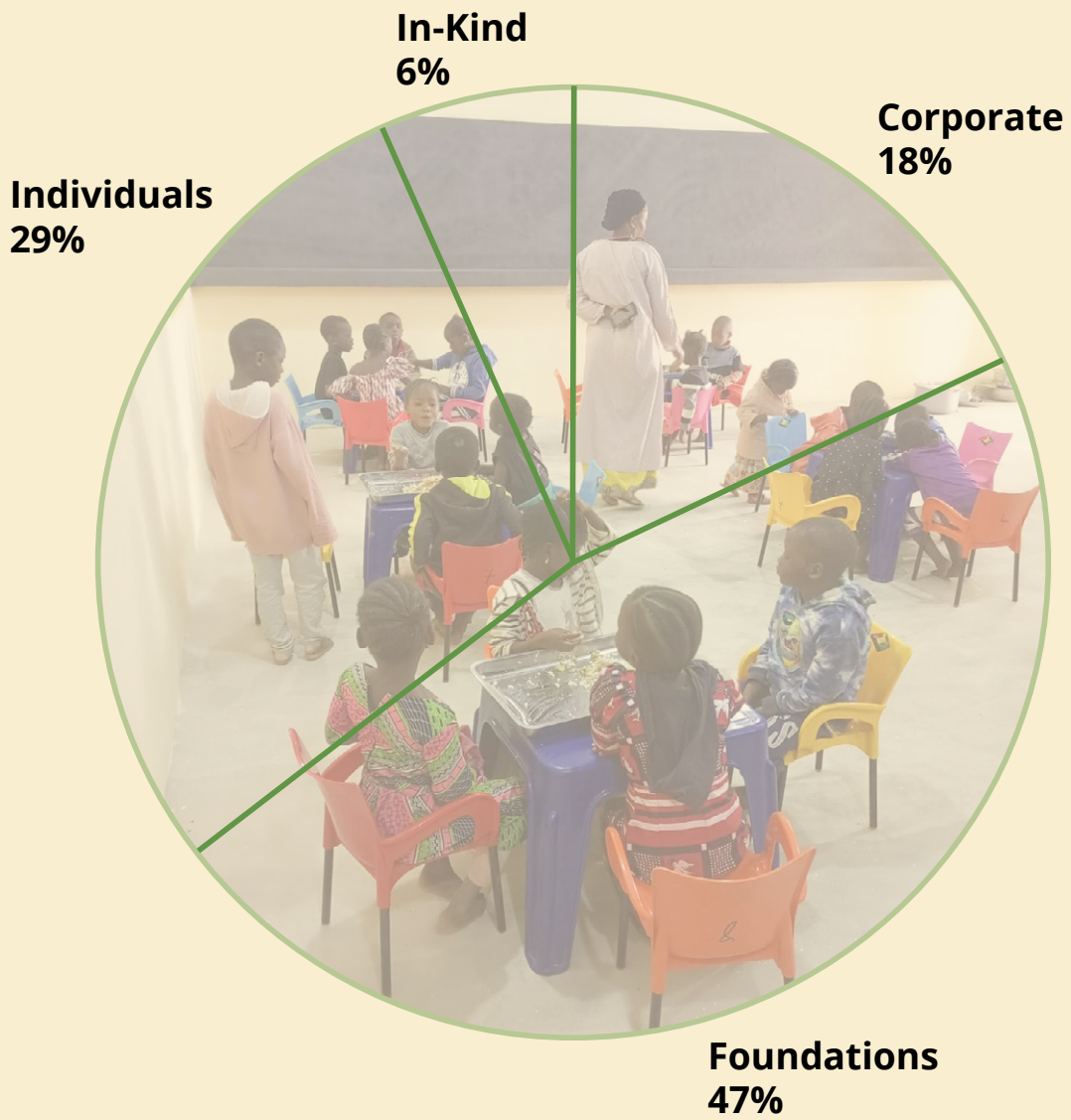
**Foundations, Individuals, and In-Kind donations all increased compared to 2020.**

Key Insights from 2021:

- Total Revenue for 2021 equaled \$100,686.
- The largest contributor was Foundations responsible for \$47,847 (47%) of revenue.
- Other top contribution categories were Corporate and Individuals for \$18,014 (18%) and \$29,132 (29%). There was other revenue, including In-Kind donations.
- Foundations, Individuals, and In-Kind donations (In-kind donations included food, clothes, toys, school supplies, etc.) all increased compared to 2020.

2021 represented another successful year for ACFA despite headwinds such as COVID and civil unrest in the country. Total revenue generated was slightly over \$100,000. Through this revenue and our USAID grant awarded previously, we have been able to provide housing, nutrition, education, and healthcare for our children as well as purchase commodities for our temporary library and computer lab at the Zorokoro Children's Complex. With ambitious goals for 2022, we are looking to increase our footprint including bringing into the ACFA family additional vulnerable children. As always, we would like to thank our donors. Historically, CIRA, SIPROVET, and The Axelrod Firm have supported our missions through corporate donations. We have acquired a new partnership with The Katz Foundation supporting our nutrition program and our long-term partner, The Perna Rose Foundation for Hope increased their donation by 34%. We also received scholarships for four of our girls from Kickoff Solutions. Additionally, we've received tremendous support both financial and in-kind from Adis Consulting in Mali attending to ACFA's HR needs. Lastly, a special thanks to our individual donors who are playing a larger role than ever to improving the lives of kids in Mali!





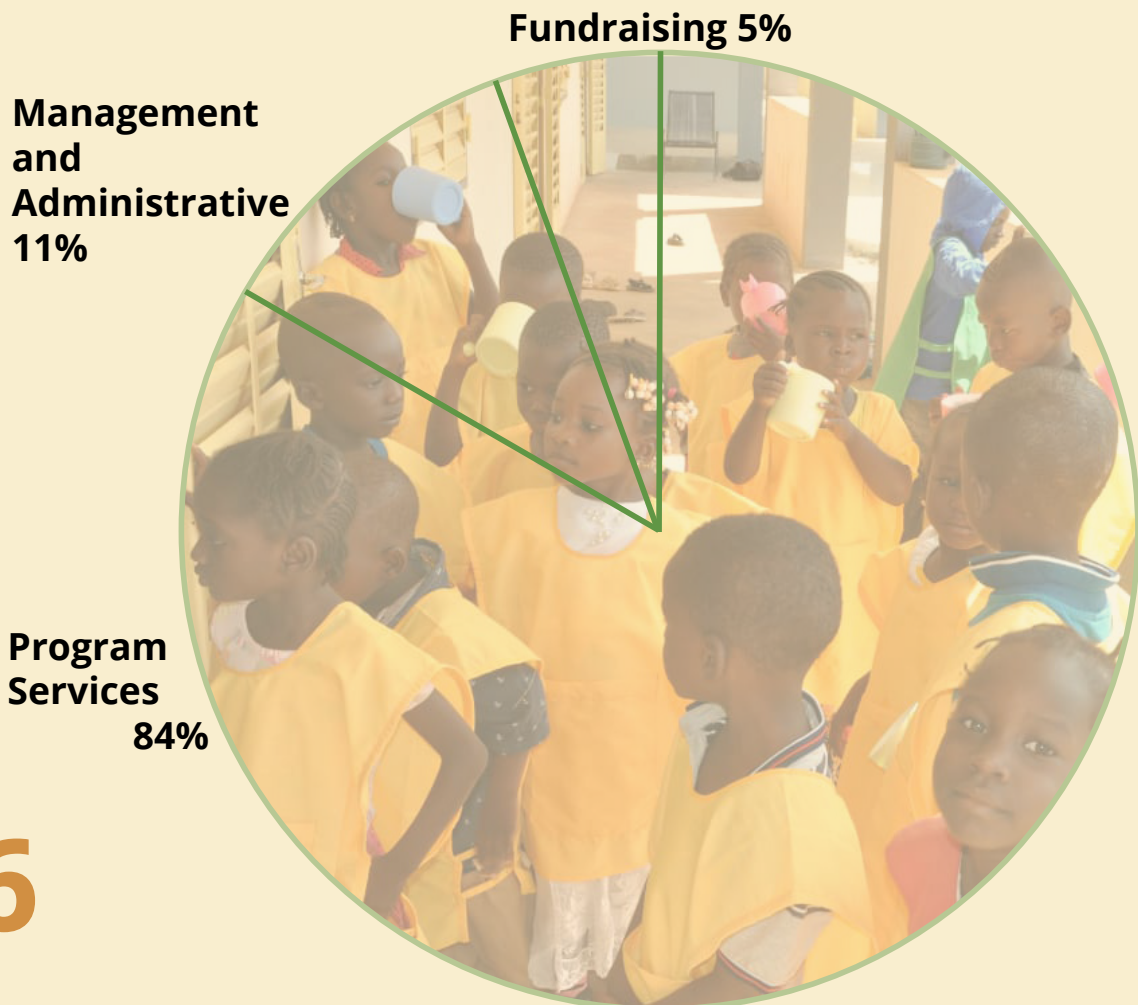
# 2021 Expenses

**Management and Administrative expenses are down from 13% in 2020 to 11% in 2021.**

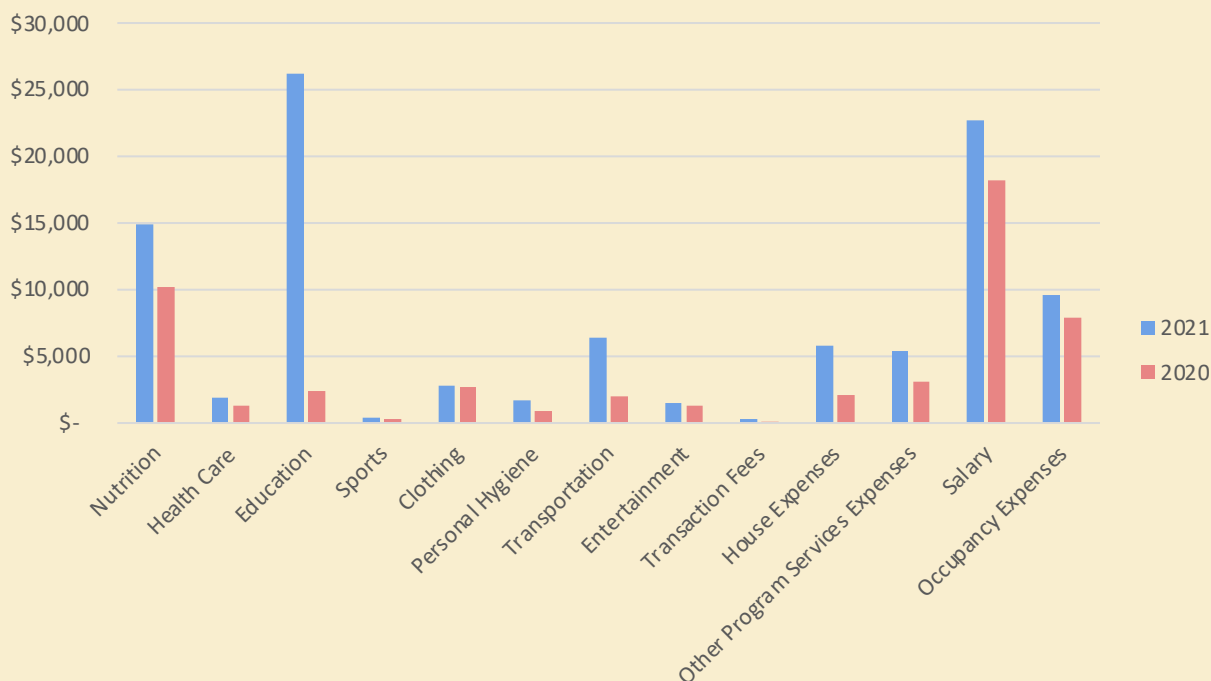
Key Insights from 2021:

- Total Expenses for 2021 equaled \$120,039.
- AFCA is proud that as in past years, most of the donations were spent on programs directly supporting our children.
- Management and Administrative expenses are down from 13% in 2020 to 11% in 2021 at \$13, 156.
- 5% of total expenses, \$5,954, were related to fundraising such as online donation fees, the CFC application and listing fees, and grant writing fees.
- Program Services were the largest expense at 84%, \$100,929.

AFCA's top priority has always been the children we serve. As we continue to push forward with our mission, we will look for ways to increase efficiencies and we will continue to allocate the greater portion of revenue directly to our children.



## 2021 Expenses By Category and Year



The chart above shows ACFA's program expenses by category and by year, comparing 2021 to 2020. Across the board we have increased our investments to support all children in Zorokoro and Bamako. There has been significant investment in our Zorokoro facilities where the younger children reside. The most notable increase is our investment in education which increased from \$2,412 to \$26,179 representing our work on the Zorokoro Children's Complex school which now has two kindergarten classes. Education plays a large role in empowering these children to create better lives which is why we plan to continue prioritizing this area.

Nutrition increased from \$10,158 to \$14,896, housing increased from \$2,118 to \$5,790, and salaries from \$18,214 to \$22,723. This reflects the now 21 full time vulnerable children and additional 26 neighboring village children that ACFA supports in the education program at Zorokoro. Here, salaries represent the payment to the staff, teachers, and caregivers directly providing for the children. With the running of two locations, ACFA incurred higher transportation fees to include children's transportation to and from medical facilities and their other activities, transportation to obtain food, etc. Finally, general inflation and price increases due to civil unrest have played a role.

**Education plays a large role in empowering these children to create better lives which is why we plan to continue prioritizing this area.**

# 2022 Future Plans

## **ACFA is at a fascinating crossroads.**

ACFA is at a fascinating crossroads. Our older children living in the Bamako Children's Home continue to thrive in sports and school, and we are starting to plan for the future of the children who will be ready for the next step after high school.

ACFA's future is very focused on the Zorokoro Children's Complex. The plans for Zorokoro include:

- Bring in another 15 children at the Complex to live in the already built dormitory, which will hold 25 children.
- Open the library and computer lab to the ACFA children and people in the surrounding eight villages, including hiring a librarian, finalizing the purchase of additional books, including books and textbooks in French, purchasing software for and planning classes for the computer lab.
- Start an additional third kindergarten class and a first-grade class in the fall of 2022 at the Zorokoro school, including hiring additional teachers.
- Build a dining hall for all the children attending the school and hire additional personnel for the dining hall.

All this growth requires planning for the organization, including:

- Enhance our existing partnerships and initiate new ones.
- Hire an operations director in Mali, and an executive director in the US.
- Present the ACFA business plan to potential investors to start operations on our farm for both livestock and crops.
- Have the CEO and Board members visit Mali and the ACFA children
- Continue to plan for and search for funding for sustainable projects that will inject funds into ACFA periodically.
- Improve our communication with our constituents.
- Complete the French portion of the ACFA website.
- Update ACFA's Strategic Plan to achieve these goals.

**In closing, ACFA is looking forward to taking the organization to the level needed to scale its operations as we continue to build on our success.**





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