



A CHILD FOR ALL

# Bringing Hope to Mali's Vulnerable Children

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

---



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**3**

**Executive Summary**

**4**

**Message from Board Chair**

**6**

**2017 Accomplishments**

**8**

**Status Report on Children**

**9**

**Financial Report**

**13**

**ACFA Future Plans**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear ACFA friends and supporters,

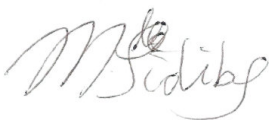
It is with great pleasure that I inform you that ACFA continues to bring positive changes to the lives of Mali's vulnerable children. In Mali, we are creating an environment where children can be just children, giving them the opportunity to thrive despite the not so glamorous cards that they were dealt: that of a life with one or both parents missing.

In 2017, we continued to strengthen our back office with the hiring of a consultant to support our grant writing efforts, allowing us to submit a major request to USAID. We hope to win this grant and gain a jump start at Zorokoro with the construction of the school supporting ACFA's major program: education. We have also hired a communications consultant improving awareness of ACFA on social media. A few other 2017 achievements include:

- We now have 4 girls performing with the National Tae kwon do training team. Diakassan traveled across the country to participate in the national fencing tournament and won her pre-qualification to the 2018 African tournament.
- This year we added supervised evening homework sessions to our academic program, and registered a 75% passing rate to the next grade, and an enhanced individual academic performance.
- We strengthened staff capabilities with subject matter experts on children behavioral training for the staff, resulting in enhanced performance and reversal of a child's potential expulsion from our program.

We continue to benefit from the strong support in Mali of the Conseil Ingénierie et Recherche Appliquée (CIRA), SIPROVET, Banque Nationale de Développement Agricole, Addis Consulting, Foundation Orange, etc., as well as many individual donors from around the world.

We have great ambitions because we believe that every child deserves to be the best that he/she can be. I can never emphasize enough the fact that we can only continue our efforts thanks to your support.



*Kadiatou Fatima Sidibe*

**Kadiatou Fatima Sidibe,**  
CEO - Founder



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear friends and supporters,

2017 has been an exciting year. We have seen a surge in people interested in volunteering for ACFA and joining the Board. The Board members now have new business cards and the Board hosted a successful Retreat in November. Planning Board meetings has become a little challenging as our CEO and Founder is based overseas serving in the U.S. military, but we manage to hold all our monthly meetings with her attendance.

We participated in a number of fundraising campaigns including the Newman's Own Foundation Holiday Challenge, Giving Tuesday and the Combined Federal Campaign. We have been part of Global Giving's campaigns for a number of years. We also now participate in AmazonSmile. Please consider using AmazonSmile ([www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)) rather than just Amazon when purchasing items and make ACFA your non-profit of choice. A portion of the cost of any items you purchase will go to ACFA.

We have two new part-time support staff in the U.S. – one who works on social media for ACFA and the other is a new part time grant writer. We also have a new administrative assistant who donated her time to revamp our website and is responsible for our now quarterly newsletter which gets posted on the ACFA website as well as emailed to all our donors. We are very grateful to her. Thank you to our new social media person, who regularly posts on Facebook and Twitter about ACFA. We had a successful – and fun – fundraiser complete with salsa dancing in Washington, D.C. We were sad to see Alpha Bocar, a long time Board member, resign from the Board due to personal commitments – we miss you Alpha!

In Mali the twelve children of ACFA in Bamako are growing up and are advancing in all areas. We painted the house in Bamako and we provided the children with custom made sports clothes with an ACFA label and each child's name.

The Zorokoro Children's Complex is ready for 25 children as the first dorm is finished. We are still short of the funds needed to bring the children to Zorokoro, but are hopeful we can raise the funds this year.

As noted last year, as our children are getting older, we are realistic about the challenges they may encounter as they become teenagers. Towards this end, we engaged a psychologist to train the staff to help our children. We will continue with this as needed to provide good emotional support to each and every child. We also plan to engage a consultant to speak to the older children about sexual education and about the physical changes they are experiencing as they mature.

We are appreciative of all our donors in Mali, the United States and around the world. I want to thank all of you who contribute to ACFA with your time and who donate to our wonderful organization. We are excited for the next year as we have made structural changes that will move ACFA forward and help vulnerable children in Mali, making sure that Mali remains a stable and safe place for the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Savitt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lisa Savitt, Chair of the Board

# 2017

## Accomplishments

2017 was another busy year for ACFA! The ACFA Board added a few new members and several volunteers. We also have three part-time support staff in the U.S. including a grant writer, an administrative assistant and someone to help with social media. All this is continuing our work towards building a strong sustainable organization. We also added some new donors in the U.S. and in Mali.

We launched a completely revamped website for ACFA to improve our communication with current and future donors and share multimedia about the children. Our site now offers genuine Malian art pieces for sale.

### The Children

The children continue to enjoy Tae Kwon Do. Two of the children qualified for the national junior team semifinals and one child traveled to the national competition and won a silver medal!

The children also participated in fencing and basketball. One of the children was selected for the Bamako Basketball District team. Overall in sports the children won a total of 9 medals, including four gold, four silver and one bronze.

The children enjoyed several other extracurricular activities, and they received new clothes, shoes and Christmas presents. They were able to participate in vocational training during the summer including tailoring, auto care and hair styling. The children continue to gain experience in various trades based on their desired future professions.

The children also had the opportunity to visit the newly completed first dormitory at the Zorokoro Children's Complex and spend the night in the Complex over Christmas.





In education, the 2016-2017 school year was a great year with most children moving up to the next class. For the 2017-2018 school year, in addition to the day courses, the children are also monitored in the evening by a teacher to help emphasize their lessons. This change is helping to improve the children's grades.

### **Staff in Bamako**

During the first quarter of 2017, ACFA staff participated in a training workshop on the de-socialization and rehabilitation of street children and youth. It was organized by SAMU SOCIAL Mali at the Angers partnership house in Bamako. For three days participants learned the rehabilitation techniques for street children. Also, staff was invited by the DRPFEF (Regional Directorate for the Promotion of the Family, Children and Women) of the District of Bamako for a training. Its purpose was to strengthen the capacities of local elected officials, technical services, supervisors of children's institutions, NGOs and associations on GBV (Gender Based Violence). The three day workshop brought together representatives from local and state administrations, children advocacy organizations, and NGOs and associations supporting children and women and their rights.

In addition, all staff received training on child psychology. This training was requested by staff to improve their care of the children. After several weeks of theoretical and practical lessons, the learners were much better equipped to help the children.

### **In the United States**

We hosted a fundraiser in July at Café Citron in Washington, D.C. It was a great opportunity to thank our current donors and let others know about our non-profit. The fundraiser included free salsa lessons for those attending.

We also held a retreat for the Board in November. The retreat was very good for reviewing the history of ACFA for the new Board members. We did necessary strategic planning and we were thrilled that our CEO, Kadiatou Sidibe, was able to join us in person.



# Status Report on the Children

---



The children continue to excel in several areas this year. Bassan, who had struggled academically when she first came to ACFA, has ranked first in her class and she is excelling in her extracurricular activities. This year, Bassan and another girl, Kadiatou, were selected to the National Junior Tae Kwon Do team, joining Diakassan and Korotoumou who were selected in 2016. In fencing, Diakassan was selected for the first time to participate in a competition organized by the National fencing federation outside of Bamako. In total, six of the children are involved in Tae Kwon Do, with two with a red belt and the other four with blue belts. The children who competed in Tae Kwon Do and fencing earned four gold medals, four silver medals, and one bronze medal.

Five of our children compete in basketball. Alassane was selected to play in one of the major teams in Bamako which is a very big accomplishment and a big deal. The children enjoy the game and have learned that there is more to

the game than winning, such as being around other children and learning from their coaches and mentors. This is very therapeutic and it helps them become responsible and good team players.

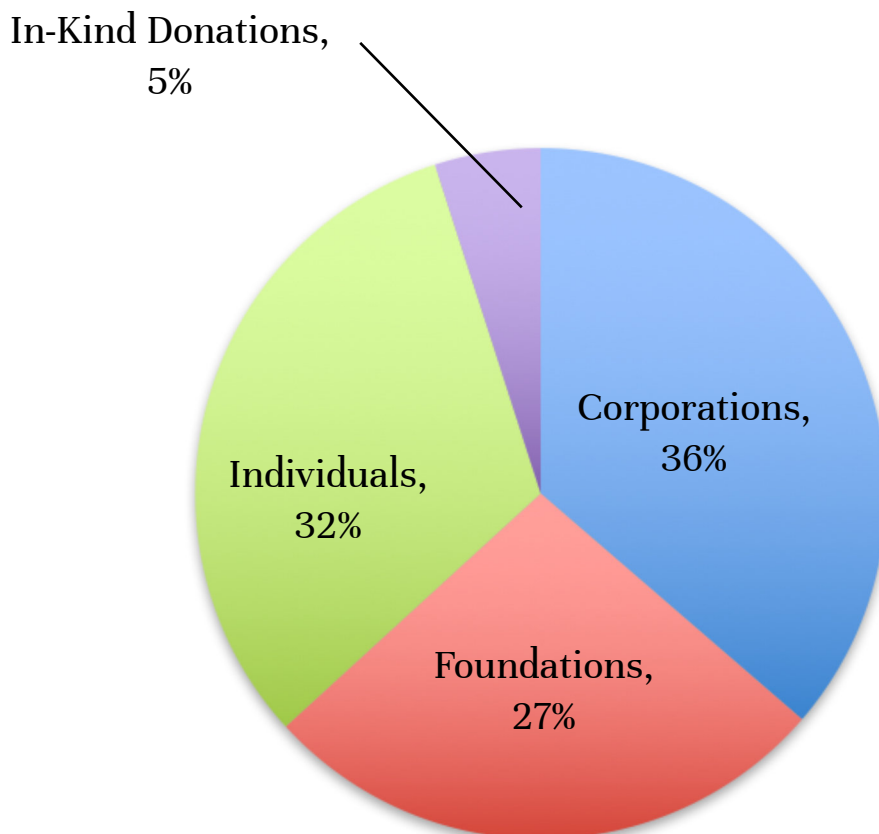
In addition to all their accomplishments in sports and extracurricular activities, the children did well academically. Two of the children, Salle and Bille, were retained in the fifth grade to ensure their level is up to a good standard. Overall, the children's performance is very good. ACFA is currently paying for tutoring services to provide more educational support for those who need it.

# 2017 Revenue

In 2017 ACFA received a total of \$52,581 in revenue. Revenue included contributions and sales of items as well as interest earned at the bank. Total contributions received from corporations, foundations, and individual donors throughout the world totaled was \$50,202. In-kind donation was \$2,618 (5% of revenue) and consisted of material such as clothes, shoes, toys, and food as well as in donated services in accounting. 36% of ACFA's revenue was received from three

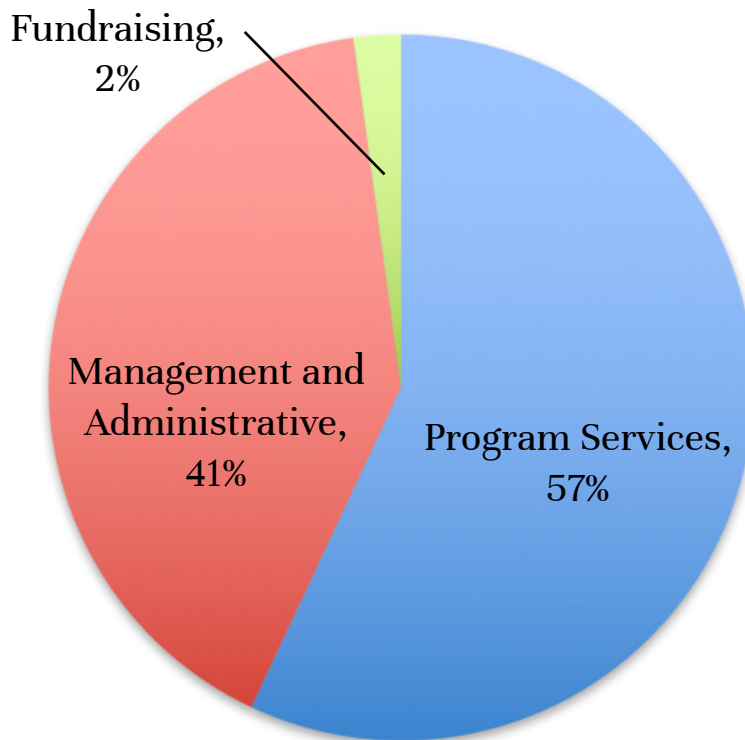
corporations in Mali: CIRA, SIPROVET and Banque Nationale de Development Agricole. CIRA in Mali, remains ACFA's largest donor with \$16K in donation in 2017. In addition to its yearly in-kind donations of food, Foundation Orange made a monetary donation of \$8K to ACFA in 2017. Finally, at the end of the year, ACFA participated in the Newman's Own Foundation Holiday Challenge and raised over \$3K.

## ACFA 2017 Revenue



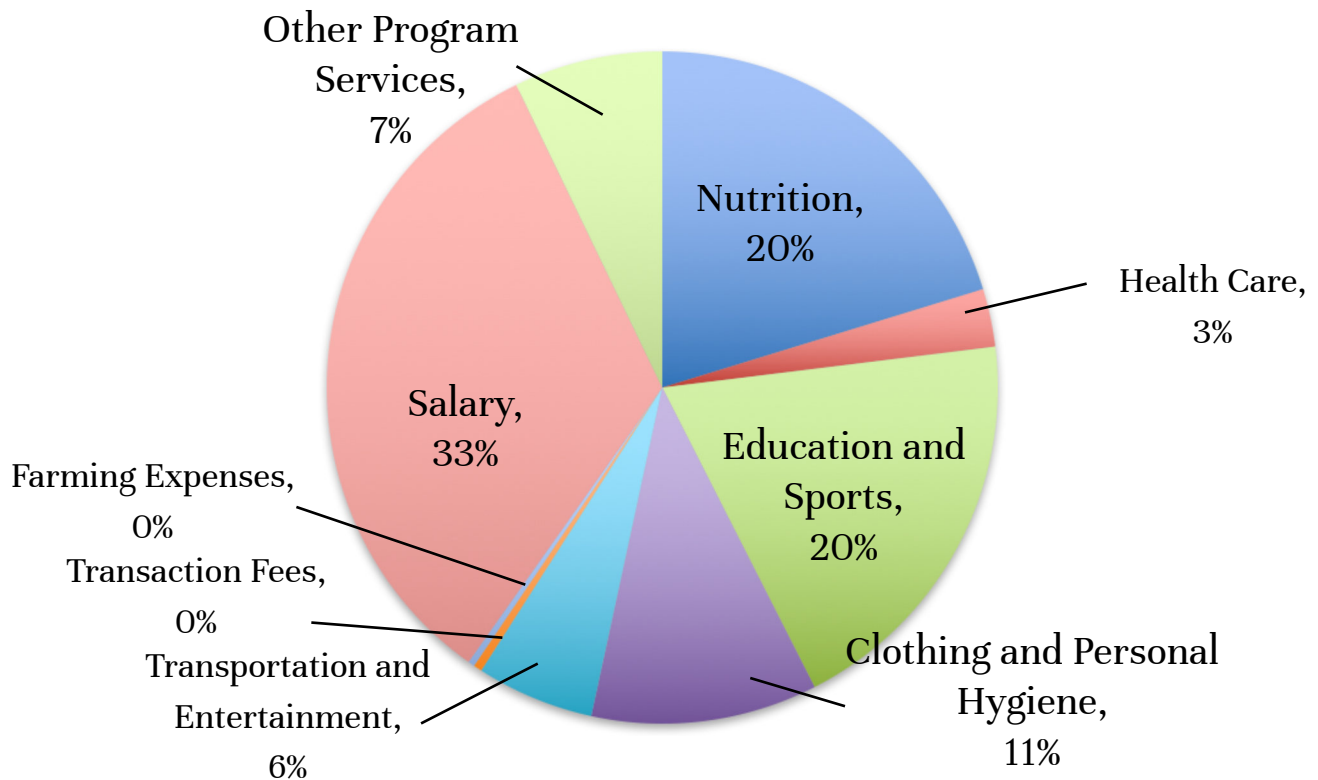
# 2017 Expenses

## ACFA 2017 Expenses



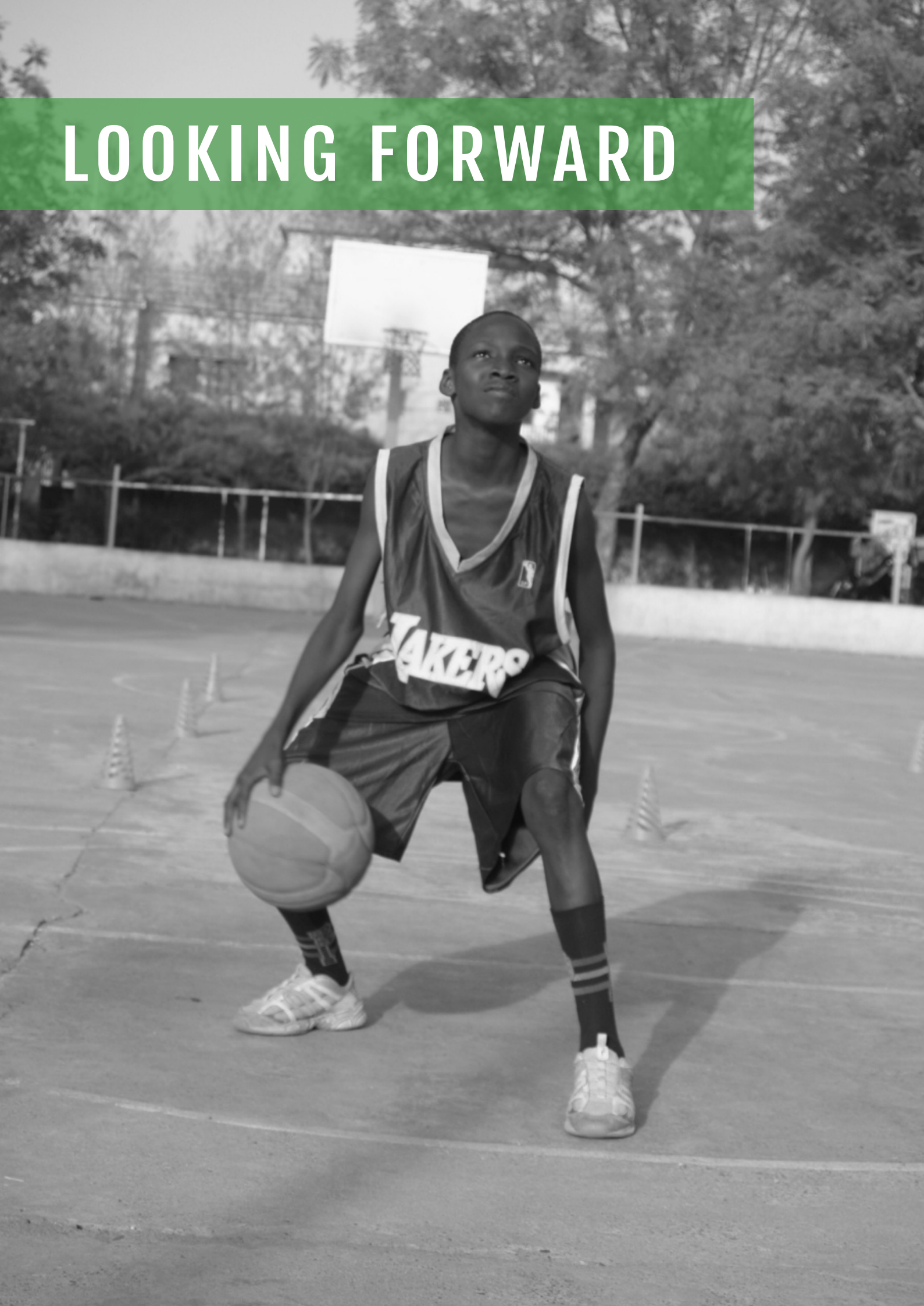
In 2017, ACFA spent 57% of its expenses in program services taking care of the children. Program services include nutrition, health care, school (vocational and regular), employees' salary and security and utility fees for the house where the children live. In 2017, ACFA restructured its program services to add the security fees paid for the house where the children live as well as water and electricity expenses of that house. ACFA's 2017 management and administrative fees remained constant compared to 2016 for \$21,914 and \$21,143 respectively. 41% of the funds were spent in enhancing the back office and ensuring we have adequate support for grant writing services.

# 2017 Program Expenses



As with 2016, in 2017, ACFA's highest category of program services was spent on salary. 33% of total program expenses was spent on employees who care for the children on a daily basis. Nutrition and education and sport consumed 20% each of the total program expenses. This year education and sport fees were relatively higher due to expansions in education for evening tutoring, and travel expenses related to the children traveling in country to attend different sport tournaments. Education fees include tuition to a private school, school supplies and uniforms, as well as the fees for year round extracurricular classes, vocational training, etc. In 2017, ACFA took a strategic pause in the farming to assess profitability and the way forward with the program. Hence minimum funds were spent in farming (\$96) representing 0% of the program expenses. Minimum Western Union transactions occurred in 2017, hence those expenses also represented 0% of program expenses. The new category "Other Program Services" is where ACFA now captures the fees associated with security and utilities at the children's home in Bamako and represented 7% of the program services expenses. Salary, nutrition, education and clothing together represent 73% of the total program expenses, reflecting the fact that these are major expenses of the programs that directly support the children.

# LOOKING FORWARD





# 2018 Future Plans

Following a retreat of the Board of ACFA in November 2017, ambitious plans were undertaken to move forward with the Zorokoro Children's Complex. Although one dormitory is built, ACFA needs to raise funds for operating costs to bring in 25 vulnerable children. We also need to raise funds or find someone to donate bedding for the dormitory. We will be looking to our donors to help with raising these funds to bring Zorokoro to a reality. We are so grateful for all that our donors have done for ACFA.

ACFA plans to commence to build its school in Zorokoro in 2018. We have applied for a grant for construction of the school and are waiting to hear whether we will receive the grant. Once the school is completed and operational, we can complete more of the dorms. Our 12 children in Bamako already love Zorokoro and cannot wait to move there.

The Board is working to determine the best way to establish a medical clinic at Zorokoro, including looking at whether ACFA will run the clinic or work with partners in operating the clinic. We also are continually updating our new website and now have the website in French as well as English. Now that we have a number of new volunteers, we plan to form committees so that our volunteers can be assigned projects. We are also working on establishing an

internship program. We are lucky that most of the Board is based in Washington, DC where there are a number of universities with international studies programs.

With the gracious support of the Segal Family Foundation, we are able to participate with CatchAFire, a non-profit which matches skill based connections with professional volunteers and non-profits. We currently are working with a volunteer to help with branding and marketing of ACFA as well as a volunteer who will assist our CEO with the ACFA budget.

For ACFA's 12 children in Bamako, we are starting to see who is good at what, and the Board is working with the staff in Bamako to ensure the children are thriving. We will continue with the vocational skills and sports activities in 2018. We also are planning to start a Sponsor a Child campaign for the 12 children as so many good things are happening in their lives right now and we want to make the connection between the children and our donors.

Several Board members are considering a visit to Mali to see the children in 2018. We are optimistic about the future, and we are dedicated to helping more vulnerable children escape the bonds of poverty and become strong citizens of a future Mali. With your help, we know this can be achieved.



# SUPPORT ACFA

[www.acfacorp.org/donate](http://www.acfacorp.org/donate)