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International Report 2013-2015

Ne laisser personne de côté • Leave no one behind • No dejar a nadie atrás

International Movement ATD Fourth World



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Message from Mr. Cassam Uteem, President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World

For many people around the world, recent years have been very harsh, brutal. Several countries, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, have experienced daily violence. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of people forcibly displaced worldwide exceeded 60 million for the first time, and more than a million people crossed the Mediterranean in 2015 to seek refuge in European countries. Without being the sole factors, poverty and inequalities within and between countries played a role in this suffering.

Though some countries are closing their borders, others are being more generous; at the local level, citizens are mobilizing. In Beirut, in an underprivileged neighborhood where life has always been difficult, some families close to ATD Fourth World are putting a lot of effort into welcoming Syrian refugee families. In this country, currently hosting more than a million refugees, mothers tell us: "Whether we are Lebanese or not, we all have the same need for solidarity, the same need to give each other strength". Elsewhere, in the Central African Republic, young people with direct experience of extreme poverty are relentlessly resisting the violence of armed conflict, taking risks to reach children, bringing them



books and enabling them, despite everything, to learn and hope. They believe that with culture, with books, they can "disarm minds."

Despite this context, 2015 has been an exceptional year with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The international community is coming together to take responsibility for challenges that have no boundaries. Of course, these agreements could have been more ambitious and more specific, particularly when it comes to financing their implementation, but they set major guidelines and points of support to promote peace and justice.

In these international negotiations, ATD Fourth World spared no effort to make the voice of the poorest populations heard in order to avoid a compounded violence against them: that of poverty, exclusion, and the climate disruption that they are the first to suffer from; and also that of policies designed without their participation, thus worsening their lot when implemented. ATD Fourth World carried the message of those who, in spite of their own harsh lives, do not hesitate to take risks to stand in solidarity with vulnerable people, in order to leave no one behind. This call refers to an approach based on human rights, the only approach that can ensure that even the most isolated are reached, and the necessity to rely on the intelligence and experience of the poorest communities. This human rights-based approach is further developed in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, adopted by the UN in September 2012.

What is crucial now is to bring governments, the private sector and all stakeholders and citizens together in order to pursue economic and social development policies in a coherent manner while adapting to climate change and keeping the focus on “ending poverty in all its forms everywhere” as provided by the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 25, 2015.

From 2013 to 2015, ATD Fourth World continued its commitment with vulnerable populations so that they could make their essential contribution to addressing together the challenges facing our world: the right to live on this earth for millions of families displaced due to poverty, war, or the consequences of climate change; the pursuit of peace in all countries; the battle against unemployment in societies where far too many are condemned to uselessness; the implementation of social protection floors in countries where the informal economy condemns populations to insecurity; and the progress of quality education for all, everywhere.

Partnering with populations living in extreme poverty, creating spaces for dialogue between these populations, authorities and social partners, supporting the efforts of the poorest to keep their families and communities united, and leaving no one behind, these are the keys to ensuring that promises are kept and that societies progress towards greater justice and dignity on a path to peace.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World is a non-governmental organization with no religious or political affiliation, which engages with individuals and institutions to eradicate extreme poverty. Working in partnership with people in poverty, ATD Fourth World's human rights-based approach focuses on supporting families and individuals through its grass-roots presence and involvement in disadvantaged communities, in both urban and rural areas, creating public awareness of extreme poverty and influencing policies to address it. ATD brings together women and men from all walks of life through cultural actions and access to rights. It is active in more than thirty countries on five continents and has correspondents in more than a hundred countries through a network called the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty. ATD stands for "All Together in Dignity."

Introduction: Extreme Poverty Is Violence – Breaking the Silence – Searching for Peace

“The violence of contempt and indifference causes chronic poverty, since it inevitably leads to the rejection of one human being by other human beings.”

Joseph Wresinski,
Founder, ATD Fourth World (1917–1988)

For three years, the International Movement ATD Fourth World carried out a participatory action-research project on the theme of violence, involving people facing extreme poverty first-hand. While being very often depicted as instigators of violence, they for once were able to show: that the poverty in which they live is in itself a form of ongoing violence; that they were resisting it; and that despite everything, they were also taking actions towards peace.

They explained that **poverty is first and foremost a violence that imposes silence, deprives one of free speech and may, therefore, go unnoticed.** This participatory action-research used a very specific methodology, which made it possible to build knowledge that is otherwise so difficult to formulate. Preparations for five regional seminars around the world included over a thousand people from very different backgrounds: people living in extreme poverty, citizens with a sense of solidarity with them, and representatives of institutions or universities. The Merging Knowledge methodology enabled each group of participants to reflect on violence, and then merge their thinking with that of the two other groups. The knowledge thus constructed had the double effect of continuously training those involved in the research and bringing in new shared understandings about the reality of poverty and ways to eradicate it.

An international symposium was organized in January 2012 in Pierrelaye, France, and a public conference was held at UNESCO in Paris to present the findings of this work. The conclusions of this conference were written collectively by a group representing all participants involved in this research.

*“They look at you with disgust and they even treat you like an enemy.”*Peru.¹

“It wasn’t just that I had nothing, but that I had been reduced to nothing.” Senegal.²

“When people disrespect us by calling us names like ‘social case,’ ‘bad mother,’ ‘incapable,’ ‘good-for-nothing,’ we experience the violence of being discriminated against, of not existing. This everyday violence is abuse.” France.³

Violence imposed by institutions keep the poorest individuals and populations in inhumane conditions, such as repeated evictions, lack of decent housing, lack of health care or legal assistance, denying access to education, separating families. These forms of violence rooted in history are very often not understood nor acknowledged as such. The exclusion of people living in poverty from all forms of participation in society denies their access to democratic processes and further perpetuates poverty.

“When our children were taken away and placed in foster care, we were allowed to write them one letter a year. You’re not allowed to say that you miss them, or that you’re fighting to get them back.” United Kingdom.⁴

Inadequate help from some NGOs is also a form of violence:

“We lived in a very poor neighborhood but were re-housed in a so-called ‘model’ neighborhood. We have homes, but many people have lost the bits of work that they had and we can’t live without money. I managed to get an article published in the newspaper saying that we needed help. Without consulting us, a truck came to the entrance to the neighborhood and unloaded tons of clothes. There were photographers present to show the arrival of this aid, but this created discord among the residents. We needed help to get our children into school, to have our neighborhood accepted by the rest of the city.... Instead of helping us, this aid made our situation even worse.” Republic of Mauritius⁵



Jacqueline Page. Le Palais. 2010

“The help, as it’s thought out, doesn’t correspond to our needs. We experience it as something imposed on us to satisfy those who thought out the projects who wanted to impose on us their values.”⁶ An opportunity is not a right. Reaching people in the most extreme situations of poverty demands going further than providing opportunities: it requires guaranteeing rights. Only in this way can poverty truly be eradicated.

When confronted with violence, silence can also be a form of resistance to avoid falling into a vicious circle, which could worsen the situation. “We keep it all in

to avoid making it worse.” United Kingdom⁷ “But the problem is that silence hides violence.” Spain⁸. Breaking the silence is about creating conditions of trust and equality for those living in extreme poverty to express themselves in front of people who have that capacity to change situations, influence institutional practices and transform living conditions.

This action-research strengthened ATD Fourth World’s actions and greatly influenced for the following years its central focus regarding the violence of poverty.

I. Advocating for poverty eradication within international institutions

Since ATD's early days, Joseph Wresinski saw that people directly experiencing poverty could be at the heart of influencing global anti-poverty policies. This led ATD to call on international institutions to put extreme poverty on the global agenda and have policies take it into account, for countries from the North and the South alike.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has had general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1991 and consultative status with UNICEF and UNESCO since 1970. It is recognized by the ILO and has participatory status at the Council of Europe.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has **permanent delegations to the European Union and to the Council of Europe**. It acts as the secretariat of the Intergroup Extreme Poverty and Human Rights at the European Parliament. Within the European Youth Forum (EYF), ATD Fourth World also brings the voice of young people in extreme poverty through its European youth movement, **"Dynamo."**

Having consultative status within international institutions has enabled ATD Fourth World to strengthen awareness on issues related to extreme poverty. This work led to the recognition that extreme poverty not only results from economic policies, but also constitutes both the cause and the consequence of human rights violations.

I-A. The adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights

In 2001, ATD engaged in a long process initiated by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (replaced in 2006 by the Human Rights Council), which resulted in the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. **This is the first major international document that clearly articulates the implications of existing international laws with regard to human rights and people facing extreme poverty.**

In 2007, upon the request of the Human Rights Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights conducted a wide consultation on the project to collect reflections from stakeholders, and in particular people facing poverty.

Working everyday alongside the most marginalized people for decades, ATD contributed its expertise, gathered from hundreds of people in France, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Thailand, and Switzerland, as well as from members of the Forum **on Overcoming Extreme Poverty**.

The report, "Dignity in the face of extreme poverty: consultations with people in extreme poverty on the draft guiding principles,"⁹ submitted in February 2008, was used by Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, to produce the final document adopted on September 27, 2012, by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the 21st session of the Human Rights Council. See <http://www.ohchr.org/FR/Issues/Poverty/Pages/DGPIIntroduction.aspx>

The United Nations General Assembly took "note with appreciation" of the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights on December 20, 2012. (See resolution A/RES/67/164)

The Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights acknowledge that extreme poverty is both a cause and a consequence of the violations of human rights. "They must provide the foundations for the design and implementation of all public policies related to poverty reduction or affecting persons living in poverty."¹⁰

These principles constitute a valuable tool for human rights advocates. They also help assist people living in poverty to make claims based on a better understanding of their rights.

Doña Silvia Velasco, a member of ATD in Cusco, Peru, said about this work: “We have planted a seed so that in the future our children won’t have to experience the poverty we live in. They can pick the fruit of this seed because they are the future of the world.”

In France, the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights were taken into account in framework law relating to planning development and international solidarity (a law called LOP-DSI) after an appeal to the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights and the Parliament, led by ATD Fourth World and in close collaboration with the NGO “Coordination Sud” between January and June 2014. The law also “ensures that people in situations of poverty are able to exercise their rights and actively participate in development programs and projects.”



Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Foundational Principles of the Guiding Principles On Extreme Poverty and Human Rights

- Dignity, universality, indivisibility, inter-relatedness and interdependence of all rights
- Equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons living in extreme poverty
- Equality between men and women
- Rights of the child
- Agency and autonomy of persons living in extreme poverty
- Participation and empowerment
- Transparency and access to information
- Accountability

I-B. A handbook for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights

The Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights have a universal vocation. ATD Fourth World, in partnership with Franciscans International and nine other NGOs, translated these Guiding Principles into concrete suggestions in a handbook to guide everyday people in taking action.

This handbook, released in September 2015, is based on case studies highlighting the expression

and implementation of these Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. This tool is the result of collaboration between representatives from NGOs, social workers, healthcare providers, academics, lawyers, human rights advocates and people living in extreme poverty. All in all, 200 people and 40 NGOs from 23 different countries have contributed to the production of this handbook.

Themes developed in the handbook “Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty”:

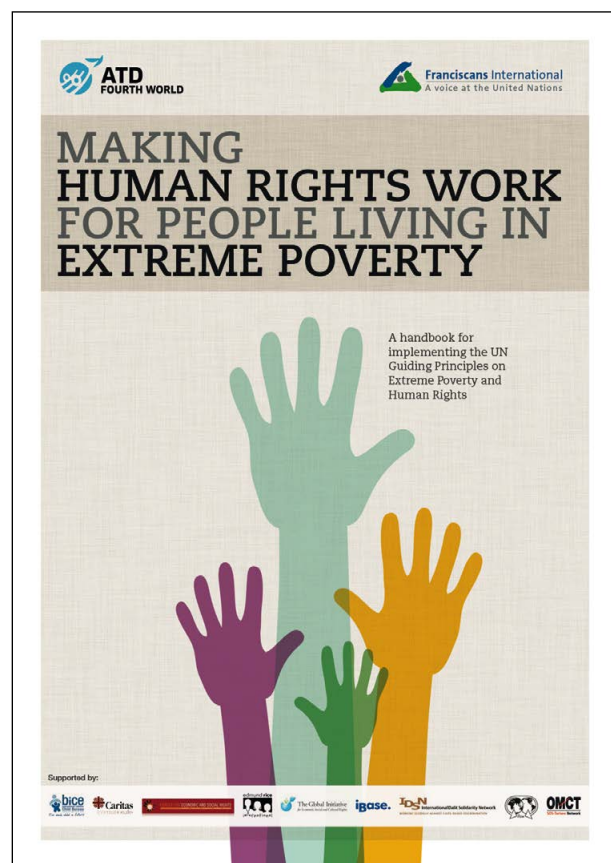
- The right to informed participation, key to empowerment
- Creating a more secure environment
- Providing the basic services required for good health
- Supporting families; protecting and respecting the rights of their individual members
- Realizing the right to food: fighting hunger and malnutrition
- Ensuring rights at work and an adequate standard of living
- Ensuring full access to quality education
- Enabling social inclusion through cultural participation, and combating stigmatization
- Ensuring that human rights are respected by business corporations

The handbook is a practical tool to be used by civil servants, teachers, members of civil society, humanitarian aid workers, and local grassroots workers, both in developed and developing countries. It helps people working directly with people living in extreme poverty to view their situation in terms of human rights and to strengthen their capacity. It is also an important tool for reaching the first Sustainable Development Goal – eradicate extreme poverty – as extreme poverty is first and foremost the cause and consequence of human rights violations. It is therefore only through a participative, human rights-based approach that the first goal can be achieved.

The handbook contains key principles for engaging with people living in extreme poverty such as: gaining trust, paying attention to group relations or community relations, ensuring the confidentiality of discussions and exchanges, encouraging participation whenever possible. **It enables the most disadvantaged people to be recognized as rights holders, and above all as agents of social change.** It also puts forward practical suggestions for working with local authorities to implement the rights of those living in extreme poverty in some priority areas (see box above).

Training sessions on how to use the handbook took place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and in Dublin, Ireland, in late 2015. The sessions gathered representatives of governments and NGOs, as well as human rights advocates. Other sessions are planned in Senegal, Switzerland, Bolivia, Mauritius, and Manila.

This handbook in French, English and Spanish, has been available for download since September 2015 on ATD's website¹¹. The printing and dissemination were supported by the Fondation Philanthropia and the French Development Agency (AFD).



I-C. Evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals

The most vulnerable people, once again left behind

In 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that the most vulnerable had not benefited from the Millennium Development Goals. As part of the evaluation process for the MDGs, the UN invited civil society organizations to share their best practices in order to help development programs truly benefit the people living in the most extreme poverty.

In response, ATD Fourth World conducted participatory action research from 2011 to 2013 evaluating the impact of the MDGs on people living in extreme poverty.¹² The project aimed at ensuring that people living in extreme poverty could contribute their knowledge and experience to the development agenda, in the evaluation and definition of development policies and programs. It helped ATD Fourth World formulate propositions for the 2030 Agenda.

Listening to the voices of people in extreme poverty

To understand the failures of the MDGs, it was essential to listen to those who did not benefit from it. They are the ones witnessing the day-to-day problems created by ill-adapted or non-existent development programs. They are also the ones who can measure the scale of changes needed for these programs to benefit all, and not just improving the situation of a minority while neglecting others.

This MDG evaluation project used the Merging Knowledge methodology (described in the introduction) to create a space for equality and freedom where people experiencing poverty could not only discuss freely with other development experts, but also play a central role in analyzing the fruits of these discussions. This methodology requires the willingness to initiate **a dialogue based on an equal footing and rooted in a sense of justice and a desire to develop more effective policies.**



A broad analysis

Twelve countries where ATD Fourth World has an active presence participated in the project, thus representing a great geographical, economic and cultural diversity. They are Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Philippines, Peru, and Poland. Delegations from a dozen other countries were involved, including members of the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty and members of other NGOs. The presence of two Western industrialized countries recalled that chronic poverty exists everywhere, not just in developing countries targeted by the MDGs.

In each of the twelve countries, partners also undertook lengthy preparations to dialogue with people in poverty and extreme poverty. They were academics, representatives of NGOs and trade unions, government officials from departments of education, social affairs, employment, professional training etc. and representatives from international institutions such as UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP (United Nations Development Program), the Human Rights Council, the European Union and the World Bank. More than 2,000 people contributed.



Evaluation and development of proposals were carried out in several stages

ATD Fourth World's teams set up weekly or monthly meetings with people living in poverty, based on mutual trust built over the years. Together, these actors on the ground learned to speak out and build collective knowledge. **They assessed the human rights violations they suffered from and the impact of development policies on their daily lives. They outlined proposals based on their own experience.** This stage lasted from six months to two years depending on the country.

Then, academics and professionals met together with people in poverty, a dialogue that requires specific training, an ability to listen and humility. The two groups met in seminars of 3 to 8 days to share their thoughts and build common proposals. The final seminar in New York brought together 175 people, including many representatives of institutions and UN diplomatic missions¹³.

- October 2012, national seminar in Beau Bassin, Republic of Mauritius
- December 2012, regional seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean in La Paz, Bolivia
- January 2013, European regional seminar in Brussels, Belgium

- January 2013, international seminar in Pierrelaye, France
- February 2013, regional seminar in Antananarivo, Madagascar
- February – March 2013, African regional seminar in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- June 2013, final seminar at UN headquarters in New York

During these seminars, participants agreed that: "Even in extreme poverty, a person has ideas. If these ideas aren't recognized, people fall even deeper into poverty."¹⁴

Here are some reflections from individuals living in poverty illustrating the evaluation's main points:

"It is difficult to access our own rights. Some end up giving up. The discrimination or humiliation that weighs down on the poor keeps us in poverty. People's opinions of the poor are so harsh that in our countries extreme poverty hides itself: poor people feel ashamed" France¹⁵

"There's plenty of aid here. But they give it out without knowing who are the worst off, so the poorest are often not aided at all. This aid creates jealousy, divides our community, and ends up isolating the poorest even more and worsening their situation." Senegal¹⁶

“Young people suffer from the lack of clean clothes, the feeling of being rejected, fear, exclusion, shame and timidity, all of which are obstacles to taking a vocational training course and finding a job.” Madagascar¹⁷

“When I was in school in the countryside, my mother couldn’t find money to buy school materials. I was sent home every time I didn’t have the required book. In the end, I left school without learning anything.” Haiti¹⁸

“Who wants this kind of life? We dream of a better life, we make an effort to move on, but we cannot do very much alone. We need support. We also wish to contribute to development, excluding no one, leaving no one behind.” Philippines¹⁹

This action-research highlighted that policies and development programs are very often inadequate, do not reach the worst off among people in poverty and can even turn against them. **International aid sometimes can silence them.** People working in the informal economy or with low-paid jobs are often pushed aside. They therefore do not benefit from quality health care or education. Efforts in favor of gender equality are not sufficient. The contribution of migrants is not recognized. Education does not provide equitable access to knowledge because of discrimination and stigmatization, because of the hidden costs of free education and the lack of legal identity documents.

Stigmatization and humiliation caused by extreme poverty must be recognized as violence. The participation of disadvantaged people in policymaking is widely lacking though it is a very fertile source. In response to rights violations, five recommendations for the Sustainable Development Goals were formulated. They served as the basis of ATD Fourth World’s advocacy work on the 2030 Agenda and are aligned with the norms and standards on human rights.

The entire analysis can be found in the report *Challenge 2015: Towards Sustainable Development that Leaves No One Behind*, available in English, French and Spanish on the ATD Fourth World international website²⁰

ATD Fourth World’s five recommendations for a sustainable development that leaves no one behind

1. Leave no one behind: to reduce disparities between people, consider the development goals reached only if they truly benefit everyone, in particular the poorest 20% of the population either at national or local level.
2. Introduce people living in poverty as new partners in building knowledge on development. Indicators such as the World Bank’s \$1.90 a day should no longer be considered as a reliable global measure of extreme poverty. Create and define new measures.
3. Promote an economy that respects people and the environment, full employment and decent work for all. Establish social protection floors in all countries.
4. Achieve education and training for all, based on cooperation among all stakeholders. Adapt education policies to community needs. Remove hidden barriers to decent education.
5. Promote peace and sustainability through participatory good governance. Ensure that participation in governance is more than a consultation exercise and develop mechanisms for community participation in every development project.

These five recommendations were published as part of a 4-page document of which hundreds of copies were circulated in English, French and Spanish. It can be downloaded from the ATD Fourth World website. (<http://www.atd-quartmonde.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/4pages-peps1-2.pdf>.) The findings and proposals of the participatory action research are also illustrated with 23 videos posted on the ATD Fourth World website and Vimeo.

Financial support for the MDGs evaluation and seminars

This work was financially supported by the French Development Agency, the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for Human Progress, the French Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, the World Bank, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Fondation Air France, GML Joseph Lagesse Foundation and the Oxford Institute of Social Policy.

Global Poverty, Beyond the Misleading Illusions of Statistics

published on the lacroix.fr website on November 13, 2015

The latest forecasts from the World Bank indicate that the number of people living in extreme poverty is expected to fall below 10% of the world population. But this announcement could be a mere statistical illusion. The method of calculating the poverty line – less than \$1.90/person/day – could be misleading. Since 2010, UNDP has been using a multidimensional poverty indicator, which measures the cumulative deprivations at the household level in the areas of health, education and living standards. Not surprisingly, different indicators give different results. In 2014, UNDP estimated that 1.5 billion people were living in multidimensional poverty, when the World Bank counted 1.2 billion people.

Invisible poverty

The \$1.90/person/day poverty line makes poverty invisible in 34 OECD countries! In the city of New York, one person out of five depends on food banks for their daily food. Many people are invisible in the statistics, just like the homeless people or those living in dumps, under bridges, etc. who are not identified in censuses and surveys. Some 230 million children under the age of five have not had their births officially recorded, said UNICEF in 2013. How are they taken into account?

No existing poverty line takes into account the relational dimension of contempt, oppression and social exclusion, which are so painful for those who suffer from it. The World Bank poverty line is a technocratic indicator. There has been neither in-depth theoretical reflection on the matter nor any dialogue with people suffering from extreme poverty.

We propose that the Commission on Global Poverty should support work aimed at defining new poverty indicators in partnership with the World Bank by involving people living in extreme poverty so that they become actors of the global debate on poverty and how to fight it and not only mere subjects of arbitrary measures decided by the powerful.

Claire Hédon, president of ATD Fourth World-France

I D. The adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Historic developments

On September 27, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) after two and a half years of negotiation. The Post 2015 Development Agenda is a historic agreement, more ambitious than the preceding MDGs, as they aim equally to eradicate poverty and preserve our planet.

ATD Fourth World invested heavily in influencing the SDGs, drawing from the action research conducted on the MDGs evaluation and expressing concerns directly to negotiators. ATD Fourth World spoke on four occasions at the interactive dialogues organized during the Open Working Group and the intergovernmental negotiations; to the UN's High Level Panel; at the formal interactive hearings organized by the President of the General Assembly on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and financing for development;

and during the third multi-stakeholder dialogue with the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

ATD Fourth World has organized more than 30 dialogues and events convening more than 250 UN Missions, UN agencies and civil society organizations in New York on topics related to the Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

High-level session at ECOSOC

These 2015-2030 goals explicitly include the requirement to “leave no one behind,” a goal for which ATD Fourth World has been striving to achieve for years. This represents a great hope for people marked by exclusion and who are struggling in grinding poverty throughout the world. For the first time, such objectives **closely link**

poverty-eradication policies to those designed to preserve the planet. For the first time too, the objectives target *all* nations, given that poverty and exclusion are prevalent in industrialized, as well as developing countries. For the first time, such objectives are **based on human rights.**

Access to rights is not affirmed enough

However, the final document does not state **the means by which people can effectively fulfill and realize their rights.** The text speaks of *ensuring* “access to” certain goods or services, but this does not *guarantee* access, especially for those farthest behind because of deep poverty. Furthermore, the text makes no reference to the *Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights*. Nor does the document address the **need for tax reforms** to achieve greater equity in income between countries and among people.

Finally, the SDGs state the aim to prioritize the most vulnerable populations, but they do not establish an

indicator in order to assess when and how this goal would be reached. “Leave no one behind” is an ambitious goal. **ATD Fourth World wants to go further by designing more qualitative poverty indicators, and by following closely the implementation and evaluation of these Sustainable Development Goals in each country.**

ATD Fourth World remains vigilant about the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals:

“Wherever we are, we will be committed to understanding how these goals will be reflected in national programs. Whenever possible, we will seek dialogue with the authorities in charge of their implementation and we will unite with others who are engaged in the same fight for the respect of all human beings and the earth. Wherever we are engaged, we will continue to make our contribution rooted in the knowledge and life experience of individuals and families living in extreme poverty.” Isabelle Pypaert Perrin, Director General, ATD Fourth World

I-E. COP 21: people in extreme poverty in the face of climate change

Goal #13 of the SDGs is to “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact.” This directly concerns the most disadvantaged populations around the world, as they are the most affected by climate change, the least responsible for it and the least able to cope.

Local teams of ATD Fourth World are on the front-line and already engaged against the effects of climate change: in the Philippines, families living under a bridge and other families living in flood-prone areas of Manila were displaced and relocated without sufficient consultation; in Madagascar, families in Antananarivo were affected by devastating floods that washed away the most fragile of their homes; in the US, the lowest income people of New Orleans were penalized twice in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, as they were evacuated and scattered in distant states without the possibility to return to their city because of the high rise in housing prices. In 2014, during the 20th Climate Conference (COP 20) in Lima, Peru, ATD Fourth World took part in a workshop on the contribution of people living in extreme poverty to sustainable solutions. In 2015, ATD Fourth World was heavily engaged in COP 21 at the intersession meetings in Bonn and in the negotiations at the Paris Conference in December 2015.

ATD Fourth World’s International Leadership Team and the president of ATD-France met with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of COP21, Laurent Fabius, in May 2015. They alerted him to the fact that policies against climate change might also penalize the most disadvantaged.

At the same time, members of ATD Fourth World were involved in various mobilizations of the civil society. In Ireland, the Croke 21 project²¹ received the COP 21 label awarded by Ségolène Royal, the French Minister of the Environment and Ecology. In France, ATD Fourth World was also present at the Village of Alternatives in Montreuil and at the “COP 21 Solutions” fair where ATD organized conferences on the topic of employment for people living in poverty. In Le Bourget at the “COP 21 Climate Generations Area,” ATD organized a conference on the importance of a human rights-based approach in the fight against poverty and global warming; and was involved in three other conferences. Climatologist and IPCC member Jean Jouzel was the guest of an ATD People’s University in November 2015 in Paris to reflect with disadvantaged people on the impact of climate change on their lives and their responsibilities.

ATD Fourth World was accredited to participate in the negotiations as an observer at COP 21. Four representatives of ATD worked in partnership with a group of about thirty NGOs defending the reference to



human rights in the text of the agreement. They were satisfied to see it mentioned in the text of the agreement: "Parties should respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to

development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and inter-generational equity." Moreover, the concept of climate justice is present in the agreement, thus recognizing that the dependency on fossil fuels benefits countries unequally and that the poorest populations and developing countries suffer more losses and prejudices linked to climate change.

In view of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, ATD Fourth World calls for:

- Placing a special emphasis on the bottom 20 % of the population to ensure no one is left behind. In other words, targets should be considered as achieved only if they are met for all relevant income and social groups, including the most vulnerable
- Tackling climate change together with people in poverty and as part of an effort to eradicate extreme poverty
- Ensuring that climate change finance is directed at the most vulnerable populations, in order to foster climate justice
- Implementing social protection floors
- Ensuring that people in poverty are able to benefit from training and job creation in the context of transitioning to a green economy

I-F. Other actions of international advocacy

At the UN Human Rights Council

In Geneva, ATD Fourth World participates in all sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC), and other meetings with a direct impact on people living in extreme poverty, such as the Forum on Business and Human Rights, and the HRC's Social Forum. It presents oral statements and organizes side events. It supports the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, and contributes to the work of other Special Rapporteurs as relevant. It also is regularly invited to meetings of the Group of Friends, headed by the French Mission, which brings together 9 governments to draft and submit resolutions to the Council when extreme poverty is on its agenda. ATD Fourth World supported several countries – France, Peru, and Poland – in their contribution to their respective Universal Periodic Reviews. ATD made oral presentations to the interested missions during pre-session meetings.

At the International Labour Organization, advocating for Social Protection Floors

Following the adoption by the International Labour Organization (ILO) of Recommendation #202, concerning national floors for social protection in 2012, a global coalition of 83 members was created. ATD Fourth World is one of the 20 organizations, which are members of the Core Team. In November 2013, the Movement participated in a conference in Berlin “Social Security for All. Preparing the “Floor”: A Civil Society Roadmap to Social Protection”. This led to the publication of the Civil Society Guide for National Social Protection Floors (SPFs). In November 2014, the coalition organized in Brussels a dialogue with CSOs advocating for Universal Social Protection and Tax Justice as well as exchanges with EU representatives to advocate for the inclusion of universal and comprehensive social protection systems and floors in the post-2015 development framework. It argued for the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection Floors at the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015. The coalition obtained the inclusion of social protection floors in various SDGs.

At UNICEF, advocating for children rights

ATD Fourth World served as part of the Advisory Group of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, preparing briefings and statements for the meetings of the UNICEF Executive Board. In November 2014, a youth activist from ATD Cuarto Mundo Bolivia spoke at the high-level event on the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in New York. A side event on the theme “No Child Without Rights” was also organized.

In partnership with UNICEF and UN Women, ATD Fourth World organized three Skype in between people living in poverty from Bolivia, the US and Canada and key actors of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. ATD Fourth World is also an active member of Child Rights Connect, whose secretariat in Geneva promotes and supports the contributions of NGOs to the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and organizes events at the Human Rights Council in conjunction with UNICEF.



At UNESCO, promoting education and vocational training for all

As part of the NGO community having been granted official status, ATD Fourth World is highly regarded by UNESCO. ATD participated in various working groups related to culture, education for all and gender equality. Its main contribution dealt with access

to education and quality education and training for all in the context of the Goal #4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2013, ATD Fourth World took part in several regional consultations on the challenges of education post-2015 for the Asia-Pacific region in Bangkok and for the Europe and North America region.

In May 2014, ATD Fourth World took part in the Global Education for All Meeting (GEM 2014) organized by UNESCO in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, whose purpose was to review and prepare targets and goals for the post-2015 education agenda. **ATD called into question targets measured in percentages as they direct policies toward those who are easiest to reach. ATD Fourth World successfully petitioned that the words “with special attention to marginalized populations” be explicitly mentioned in the targets of the statement, not just in the explanatory statement.**

In July 2014, ATD Fourth World participated in the conference “How to Ensure Quality Education for All? Results and Prospects in French-speaking Africa” in Ouagadougou organized by J-PAL Europe and the Ministry of Education and Literacy of Burkina Faso, and in February 2015, in the conference of ministers on the post-2015 education agenda for the Europe and North America region.

ATD Fourth World also presented the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights: at the

association of former staff members of UNESCO in December 2013; at the General Assembly of the REPTA (an African network for Education for All) in June 2014; at International Literacy Day in Paris in September 2014; at the international NGO Conference “Re-enchanting the World with the Post-2015 Development Agenda” in December 2014; and at the “Women and Poverty” forum in June 2015.

At the International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF), recognizing people in poverty as actors of development

On October 17, 2014, an ATD Fourth World delegation met with Abdou Diouf, then Secretary General of La Francophonie, and in April 2015, Michaëlle Jean, the current Secretary General of IOF. Both delegations asked that public authorities of the least developed countries be considered as partners and that individuals and families living in extreme poverty should also be seen as actors in policies and plans.

In partnership with IOF in New York, ATD Fourth World organized seven dialogues in French for representatives of Missions, UN agencies and CSOs on themes related to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Division of the IOF financially supported training sessions for grassroots development actors to present the Handbook on the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights in several countries around the world.



II. Helping groups and individuals to sustain their motivation

Over and above direct action in the field, ATD Fourth World supports individuals and groups who are also

involved with working with the destitute. This is a considerable reinforcement.

Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17²²

The Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty²³ is a network of committed persons who through associations, universities, public institutions...work for the future of individuals and families living in extreme poverty. It allows those involved actively, personally, and very often invisibly with those living in extreme poverty in their country, to share their experiences, via an exchange of letters.

The correspondents, from over a hundred countries from around the world, are of all ages, nationalities, and religious, philosophical, cultural or ethnic affiliations. Each one retains his/her own identity and objectives. What brings them together is their commitment and desire to develop friendships and work closely with those who live in extreme poverty: those

who suffer from a lack of security in many aspects of their lives, those who are the most ostracized and the most criticized in their communities.

Personalized correspondence is maintained with these committed individuals. Excerpts from this correspondence are made available through the publication "Letter to Friends Around the World." The testimonies, which are often generous and full of humanity, but also often express great suffering and solitude, provide encouragement and ideas to thousands of readers. The Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty's ambition is to offer them the possibility to collaborate within this sphere of communication, even if they are in very remote places or have very limited means.

A group of mothers of children with disabilities in a Johannesburg township decided to challenge the prejudice and ignorance that their children are subjected to. They painted the outer walls of their houses purple and with drawings of their children, with captions inviting their neighbors to think about the issue. For example "Autism: Do you know what's going on in my mind? It's high time you learn about disabilities!" Two dozen houses have been painted purple in honor of the children who live in them. A mother said: "My neighbor thought my son was crazy. Now he understands better." Women of the area have been able to set up a school for the children with disabilities where, without any prejudice, children without disabilities are also welcome.



In Hungary, the association 'True Pearl' has set up an art school for children from the Romani community, and for those from outside the community, from 13 villages in Told. They have received many prizes by juries who know nothing of their origins. This community initiative in these run-down villages has initiated other projects such as the construction of a community center, community gardens, the production of eco-friendly combustible bricks and embroideries inspired by the artwork made by the children. "Everybody despises the Romani, but here they have confidence in us. This whole project is about having confidence."



These projects are publicly applauded on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, on October 17.

October 17 was declared "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty" by the United Nations in 1992. Fr. Joseph Wresinski unveiled a commemorative stone in the Trocadero Human Rights Plaza in Paris. On this marble, his appeal is engraved: "Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty."²⁴

Since then, the commemorative stone has become a rallying point, initiated by Joseph Wresinski, for people from all walks of life. They gather to bear witness to the very poorest people in the world and to make a personal commitment to join forces with them in abolishing poverty and social exclusion.

(In 2013, 233 events in 45 countries were recorded; in 2014, 279 events organized in 44 countries; in 2015, 246 events in 47 countries.)

The International Committee for October 17

The International Committee for October 17 exists to promote the original spirit and concept

of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

It also ensures that when replicas of the Paris commemorative stone are unveiled elsewhere, this is done with the same aim: to encourage encounters between people of different horizons and to honor the daily struggle of those living in extreme poverty. Today there are 49 replicas on several continents. The Committee's last biannual meeting was in Dublin, Ireland, in May 2014; with contributions from many members of public and political spheres who gather together each October 17 to affirm their commitment to overcoming extreme poverty. Among the commitments taken can be noted the idea of developing links between local town and city councils of the different places where replica stones exist in view of establishing partnerships to celebrate the special commemorations planned for 2017, which will be an exceptional year for defenders of human rights. The 16 members of the Committee from different social and geographic backgrounds come from Belgium, Burkina Faso, USA, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Nepal, Myanmar, Philippines, Ireland, the UK, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic. The committee, created in 2008, has as its president Donald Lee, a retired senior economist at the UN.

Tapori, building a network to connect children all over the world

"If a child has no peace, they cannot study or learn well and they will forget all that they have learned because of the war, because their mind cannot settle." Germain, Democratic Republic of the Congo

"Peace, of course! One needs peace to learn and friendship to have peace." Kyliane from France

Tapori is the children's branch of ATD Fourth World. It is a network of friendship among children the world over. It offers children from different social backgrounds an opportunity to be in contact with each other through a monthly newsletter. It offers activities that depict the lives and hopes of low-income children and suggests ways to create gestures of friendship towards them. It promotes the spirit of solidarity that exists naturally between children.



Tapori's motto is, ***"We want all the children to have the same chances"***.

While children of all backgrounds are part of Tapori, in underprivileged areas, adult facilitators invite children to open up and talk about their lives. They can

- 2013: "A village where everyone may live in peace," a story inspired by Khadija, who wanted to unite two Cairo neighborhoods.
- 2014: "Let's create a world where each one of us has our place," a story inspired by Laetitia, a child placed in an institution in Switzerland.
- 2015: "Look at my home," a story inspired by Ronnie, who lives in a shack under a bridge in Manila.
- The Tapori Newsletter is bimonthly. It is published in French, English, Spanish, German and Polish and 2,500 copies are printed.

"All Peace Builders"

Khadija dreamed of a bridge that would unite two neighborhoods of Cairo, in Egypt. She wanted the inhabitants of both these neighborhoods to meet and "build a real bridge, like the ones elsewhere, or that the ones that exist as a dream in our hearts and minds." Her words initiated the campaign "All Peace Builders," encouraging children to think about gestures that 'build' peace.

Lorraine, from the Ivory Coast, wrote, *"I can feel that I am contributing to building peace when I feel close to my friends."*



send messages to Tapori's secretariat that reveal their courage and resilience. Tapori mini-books, which relate their true stories, create dialogue among children around the world. In order to widen the scope of these dialogues, Tapori regularly proposes themes and campaigns.

- There are 42 Tapori groups in 24 countries and Tapori activities in 7 other countries.
- The Tapori website exists in 11 languages (www.tapori.org)
- 19 Tapori mini-books as well as novels, stories and songs are available on the website.
- There is a tool-box with educational documents available for group leaders and teachers at <http://en.tapori.org/educational-resources-2/>

Celia from Switzerland: *"To be able to build peace where I live, we would need a park in front of the house where we could play and share fun moments together."*

Children from Mauritius wrote, *"In our village, we wish that there were houses for everyone, a large garden where everyone could plant what they wanted, some vegetables and fruit. We could share what we planted, even with those who didn't plant."*



“Look at Where I Live!”

In October 2015, in connection with the UN theme ‘A sustainable future’, the campaign “Look at Where I Live” was launched. Children spoke publicly about how they imagined a sustainable future. Here are the testimonies of Taporì children from the Antohomadinika neighborhood in Antananarivo, on October 17:

“For us, a sustainable future means the eradication of poverty. Parents should have a job that allows them to provide for all a family’s needs. There will no longer be children who do not go to school. We will be able to eat normally. We should live in houses that are solidly constructed, that can protect us from all kinds of dangers. If all the above come to be, then the world would live in peace and all wars would be wiped out.”



Sustaining the motivation of members of ATD Fourth World

The members of ATD Fourth World

Fourth World activists are those who live in or have lived in extreme poverty and who have chosen to join ATD Fourth World because they identify with it. They bring to it their thoughts and experiences and commit to actively looking for and supporting those who live in even more difficult conditions.

Volunteer Corps members make a long-term commitment to working alongside families living in extreme poverty. They are about 400, from over forty different countries, with different philosophical and religious beliefs and with different initial professional training. Despite their differences, they have accepted to live simply with the same modest income regardless of their responsibilities, qualifications or seniority.

Friends and allies are engaged in their social, cultural or professional environments, where they inspire new people to commit to working towards a more just society. Tens of thousands of such supporters, engaged worldwide, work towards introducing necessary changes to enable more social justice.

Volunteer Corps General Assembly 2014-2015

The Volunteer Corps General Assembly brings together full-time volunteers. During the assembly, they work towards establishing a common identity; they share the difficult moments in working face-to-face with poverty; and they work at developing a new approach to sharing responsibilities. It is important that each one's commitment be acknowledged and encouraged by the others. Also inherent to volunteer work are the demands

of a long-term commitment, team life, close relationships with extremely low-income families and living on a small budget. Each volunteer must be able to give meaning to his/her commitment with ATD. **Learning by doing, Volunteer Corps members create with others an ethical lifestyle that challenges inequality, the excessive consumption that drives modern society, and traditional ideas of modern hierarchy.**

Thoughts on Governance

Following in the footsteps of its founder Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988), the International Movement ATD Fourth World strives to structure its internal governance in a way that **promotes effective and inclusive projects**. To ensure that people in poverty can speak and be heard in ways that help overcome poverty and injustice, this organizational framework is shaped by the need to make decisions together. This goal requires an atmosphere of respect and peace.

ATD's work can be likened to a laboratory for finding the conditions necessary to leave no one behind and to enable people living in poverty to shape its governance. This research is ongoing because these conditions can vary for different people and different situations. Between June and September 2014, regional workshops were held to evaluate ATD's internal governance. In November 2014, Eugen Brand, former Director General, brought together 60 people for an international seminar to examine a governance "dedicated to human rights, democracy and peace." It identified key insights needed to meet this challenge.



Research and publications, making known Joseph Wresinski's philosophy and contributions

The Joseph Wresinski Foundation was established on December 18, 2015, and is sponsored by the Institute of France in Paris. Its aim is to **promote an understanding of the life, thoughts, actions, and philosophy of Joseph Wresinski by supporting research projects, organizing conferences and issuing publications.** The Institute of France recognizes the fundamental importance of the analyses and proposals of Joseph Wresinski and of the movement that he created by bringing together people with firsthand experience of poverty with people from all other walks of life.

In confronting the important issues of today, the innovative philosophy and contributions of Wresinski are a precious resource, though as yet, little known or studied. Efforts to do so have not been lacking, however. Since 1988, his writings and speeches have been published and seminars and forums organized. The **Joseph Wresinski Center for History and Research** was opened to assemble and conserve **all the archives of ATD Fourth World and its founder** and in doing so to ensure this important legacy flourishes. **The center is located in Baillet-en-France,**



Val d'Oise (a suburb of Paris). Isabelle Pypaert Perin, invited by the vice-chancellor of the Institute of France, Mr. Gabriel de Broglie, signed an agreement that defined the Joseph Wresinski Foundation in these terms: The aim of the Joseph Wresinski Foundation is to promote the emergence and dissemination of a culture of overcoming poverty by extending its support to any project:

- *leading to an understanding of the life, philosophy, actions, and spirituality of Fr. Joseph Wresinski, including the influence he had during his lifetime and its continuing impact, and to circulate these in the world;*
- *bearing witness to the life and struggles of people living in extreme poverty;*
- *bearing witness to the life and actions of ATD Fourth World, as well as its history and its current projects, its approach, and the influence it has on societies in which it develops.*

Since 2015, the Joseph Wresinski Center for History and Research has been very active preparing the founder's birth centenary celebrations to be held in 2017. Publications, forums, pedagogical tools and international campaigns for the general public have been prepared.



III. Actions across continents

The gap between people fighting extreme poverty and other citizens continues to widen. Often the lives of very poor families are turned upside down by crisis situations and emergencies are part of their everyday existence. Responses to poverty are all too frequently only temporary measures. ATD Fourth World has built up its

long-term presence and actions around emergencies by thinking them through with all of those involved. Its vision is based on mutual respect, resisting exploitation, pooling resources and the search for consensus. In dealing with these issues, **it is first and foremost human involvement that it favors**. Below is the program that underlies ATD's actions worldwide.

Common Ambitions for 2013-2017²⁵



Reaching out to those whose contribution is still missing

ATD Fourth World implements a “*Tèt ansanm*” or collaborative form of governance.²⁶ Every four years, its members define their common ambitions for action based on the life experiences of people in desperate poverty. For the 2013-2017 period, the emphasis has been placed on the effort of “reaching out to those whose contribution is still missing” from projects, from public representation, from communities, etc. This applies to all three of our priorities:

Priority 1: Building knowledge and accessing education – Every mind counts

Because people in situations of extreme poverty are prevented from expressing their own experience, they cannot contribute to projects that affect them. Wasting the intelligence of people living in poverty — men, women, young people, and children — is a serious form of discrimination and a tremendous waste for society. In partnership with others, we will, through our projects,

bring recognition to the life skills and knowledge of those who resist extreme poverty in their daily lives. We will support families as the first place of education, gather support to help institutions of learning become more inclusive, and promote the Merging Knowledge approach as a way to produce new knowledge that draws on all available sources of human intelligence and skill

Priority 2: Shaping a people-centered and earth-friendly economic vision

Today's economic system subjects people in extreme poverty to extreme exploitation and often constrain them to uselessness. Yet, day after day, these people struggle and toil to provide for their families. Around the world, there are many people and networks engaged in exploring alternative economic models whose aim is to foster the well-being of people and communities. We focus on the challenge of including the most disadvantaged people in this process.

Priority 3: Communication for peace and for human rights

It is no longer possible to speak about peace without recognizing the violence inherent in poverty and the contributions made by people in poverty to overcoming this violence and to building peace. Ending extreme poverty depends on public organizing and broadening solidarity. We aim to increase public awareness and civic engagement in society in ways that refute prejudice against people in poverty, and that defend their human rights. Everyone's efforts are needed, and it is important that everyone have opportunities to show their solidarity. By organizing in this way, we can also protect our freedom of action by expanding our network of friends and donors.

AFRICA

“Even when poor, a person is still capable of having ideas. If nobody acknowledges these ideas, that person will sink even deeper into the mire of poverty.”

ATD runs projects in seven African countries – Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Tanzania. Partnerships with local charities and national NGOs have been developed in around 30 countries through the Forum for Overcoming Extreme Poverty. Several African members sit on the Board of Directors of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

Depending on the country, ATD has developed several forms of action by involving people living in extreme poverty and organizations and structures seeking to fight extreme poverty. These projects address:

- access to knowledge and culture;
- understanding and defending one's rights;

- commitment to ensure that the contributions made to social life by the very poorest people are valued;
- educating for peace through the Taporì movement and reconciliation efforts;
- training in public speaking in order to enable people in poverty to express themselves at local or international meetings, at seminars or at the World Day for Overcoming Poverty

Through these actions, our members, whether they have experienced poverty or not, have been able to develop close ties with others. They thought and worked together so that all are able to get the most out of structures and projects (social action, health, school, etc.), contribute to the development of their communities, and achieve recognition in this regard. Those living in extreme poverty who were involved in such projects facilitated actions that were of benefit to all. Their involvement in the community is worn as a badge of pride by their own children who have realized that poverty is not inevitable.

Burkina Faso

People in extreme poverty as partners in education that is truly for all

From February 25 to March 3, 2013, following a research-action carried out over two years, ATD Fourth World organized an international seminar in Ouagadougou entitled “The Very Poor, Partners in Education that is Truly for All.” This was one of a series of seminars

organized within the framework of the assessment of the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals).

It brought together 65 participants who spent a great deal of time preparing for this meeting with their



communities. It involved people living in poverty who have never been to school, sitting side by side with academics, civil servants, and representatives of NGOs and international organizations. They came from Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, France, Mali, Senegal, and the United Kingdom.

They first sought to identify together what fundamental knowledge was needed for each individual to build a life – knowledge learned at school, knowledge gained from life experience, traditional knowledge, etc. These different types of knowledge should be mutually enriching, and not placed in opposition to one another, which is often the case. Some explained how the courage shown by their parents has given them the strength to learn. They then discussed educational success, which they defined as follows: “It means being useful to oneself, to the community and

to the whole of society.” They underscored the ravages caused by extreme poverty and hunger. They also deplored the obstacles to education created when some teachers deny efforts made by parents, as well as when children lack a birth certificate.

They encouraged each country to pursue its struggle to achieve schooling that is really free of charge and that develops cooperation and friendship among all pupils. They discussed experiments carried out in Senegal, Burkina Faso, the Republic of Mauritius and France, which all helped to gain a better understanding of ways in which educational success could become a reality for all.

At the end of this seminar, joint proposals were set out during a public session in the presence of the representative of the Minister of National Solidarity and Social Action.

The Burkina Faso National Order of Merit Medal Awarded to ATD Fourth World

The representative of the Minister of National Solidarity and Social Action, Joanis Kaboré, awarded this honor to André Compaoré, the oldest person at the *Cour aux cent métiers*²⁷ on the day of the public presentation of the work achieved at the seminar.

“The fact that this medal was awarded to our elder is exceptional. This is perhaps the first time that this sort of award has been given directly to those who are working on their own, in silence, to survive despite poverty,” said the participants.

Tanzania

Education that leaves no one behind



In Tanzania, ATD Fourth World has encouraged the involvement of people living in extreme poverty in the development of the community and of the country. In 2014, a participatory study on access to education was launched. This project, “Education For All,” with backing from UNESCO, aims at understanding the conditions needed to enable children living in extreme poverty to start and complete their primary education. The goal is to develop practices that can be scaled up countrywide.

Alloyce Benjamin Chija, principal of the Kinondoni District Primary School, explains: “The aim is to guarantee all children access to primary school, despite the challenges they face in their private lives and also to get them to understand that they have to continue studying if they are to complete their training. Activists from ATD are behind them. They go to

Tandale, Ferry and Kunduchi to work alongside the poorest of the poor and to include them in actions. This project motivated me to work more efficiently in my school, to ensure that all children receive quality

Senegal Flood-fighting brigade

Every year, during the winter months in Guinaw Rails (on the outskirts of Dakar), disadvantaged families are affected by flooding. Those who have the means to do so can protect themselves by building little dams in front of their homes — which makes the situation worse for others. Large pumps provided by the army or by NGOs are efficient but they do not reach the most rundown, narrow alleys and they sometimes lead to chaos in the neighborhood. Encouraged by ATD, local young people became the driving force within a “flood-fighting brigade.” Together with

education. For example, if I notice that a child is not coming to school anymore, I go and fetch him or her, even outside my normal working hours.”

other activists, the young people work alongside families who have been most affected by the flooding to help them drain their homes and other areas. They have also helped to agreement within the community by designing and maintaining a system of drainage ditches that protect everyone’s homes.

“Now, locals know that they can do something themselves. They know what they’re capable of. They have all agreed that the water from one neighborhood can flow through another so as to protect the worst off families.” — Lamine, a member of ATD’s Volunteer Corps



At the end of 2013, the Ministry of Restructuring and Development of flood zones launched a project in Guinaw Rails to construct three trenches to drain off

the water. These trenches, lined with concrete, were dug in the same place as the makeshift ditches that were first designed by the flood-fighting brigade.

Training Young People who Are Involved in their Community

International training sessions were organized for young Africans involved in ATD in their own communities. In Bouaké (Ivory Coast) in July 2014, in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and in Bangui (Central African Republic) in 2015, young people have had the opportunity to share their desire to “prevent the loss of intelligence” of children through actions to share knowledge, Street Libraries and Taporis groups.



Democratic Republic of Congo The Bukavu “Families in Solidarity” group

“By supporting each other, we manage to change the world, despite the fact that we’re poor.”

Set up in 2010, the “Families in Solidarity” group has helped to develop neighborliness in Bukavu.

“When the group started out, there weren’t very many of us. Many people thought that our organization wouldn’t last very long because it didn’t generate material goods or money. But little by little, we’ve grown in size. We try and support each other, whether this means rebuilding a wall of one of our houses or chipping in and going to visit someone who’s sick, or even providing support for someone who’s been sent to prison.

“The solidarity that we’ve experienced within our group is not only of benefit to our families, but also to all of the people living in our neighborhood. We demonstrated this on October 17 when we repaired a little bridge and cleared a road. Our efforts help with the development of our neighborhood.



“When we were invited to contribute to the colloquium “Extreme Poverty Is Violence — Breaking the Silence — Searching for Peace,” we were struck to realize that the experiences of families here had become known around the world. From that point on, our group grew; we realized that we existed for others. By supporting each other, we can change the world, despite the fact that we are poor.”

Central African Republic Acting for peace

Since 2012, the country has experienced serious armed conflict and political instability. The involvement of an international peacekeeping force made it possible for a transition government to be put in place, but has not managed to disarm the different

fighting factions. The population remains affected by ongoing violence.

In this country, where ATD Fourth World has run projects since 1984, members of the Volunteer Corps

have been present throughout the crisis. The ATD Courtyard, where they live, has remained very lively. For months, it was impossible to organize formal meetings, but members and friends continued to stop by the courtyard, finding a place of comfort and a space where they could talk.

When violence broke out on December 5, 2013, many people fled and took refuge adjacent to the national airport, where the presence of the French army gave them a sense of being relatively protected.

Here, many children asked Herbert, whom they knew from the ATD Street Library he had previously run in the Kokoro market, to carry on with this activity. The airport refugee camp is enormous, with more than 100,000 people cramped together in the most abject conditions. Mothers echoed their children's request. Together, they cleaned up a small piece of land and laid down tarpaulins to make room for a Street Library. Very quickly, Herbert and some of the other young people he had mobilized in the camp found that they had 300, 400, 500 children participating. From this central space, they organized reading, singing, and dancing activities. This spread to other areas of the camp, with activities taking place practically every day.

ATD Fourth World also organized two peace education sessions 50 of its members, together with an organization set up by friends in Rwanda, "Umuseke," along with other partner organizations. The participants expressed enthusiasm about this training, which helped them to think about prejudices, scapegoating, misleading rumors, and the importance of consistently questioning and checking before making a decision.



Béatrice Epaye, a Member of Parliament and part of the National Transition Council, sits on the ATD Fourth World Board of Directors. She affirms that the process of reconciliation and peace in her country cannot be imposed from the top down. "There are Mandelas in every village. A huge reconciliation will do nothing. What we need to do is to find and support all those Mandelas in the villages."

Returning from a visit to Central Africa, Jean Tousseint, ATD's Deputy Director General, explained: "During my trip, I had the feeling that I was meeting very strong, solid people —strong and solid on the inside— people who knew who they were and what they wanted, aware that peace can be achieved only if everyone makes a commitment, together and on a personal level. I have never felt as strongly as I did in Bangui to what extent **the movement to overcome poverty is a force for rebuilding peace and rebuilding the country.**"



INDIAN OCEAN

Several teams are active in the Indian Ocean area: Madagascar, the Republic of Mauritius and Réunion Island²⁸ where the level of development is very varied. Friends are active on other islands as well – Grande Comore, Mayotte and Rodrigues – and some of them are linked to the Forum for Overcoming Extreme Poverty.

Members from the whole region came together on October 17, 2014, for the World Day for Overcoming Poverty, working with the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) for Madagascar. In Port Louis (Republic of Mauritius), a delegation from Réunion Island came join Mauritian friends in marking the 10th anniversary of the commemorative stone erected in honor of the victims of poverty. In Madagascar, ATD celebrated 25 years of activity. On Réunion Island, delegations from three countries celebrated the 25th anniversary of the commemorative stone. These highlights strengthened links in the region and enabled people to express the meaning of the day which is to come together to overcome extreme poverty.

“Stale bread, sugar water, I know what that is. Waiting outside the school because your parents weren’t able to pay the fees, I know what that is too.



“Taking the bus to the hospital to give birth, I’ve experienced that. Seeing my dad come home empty handed because he couldn’t find anything, sensing how he feels hurt, just by looking at him, I’ve experienced that too. Before this commemorative stone was here, we already had it in our minds, in our dreams. Now perhaps it will stay in everyone’s memory, so that no-one forgets.” – A woman from the Pailles neighborhood, Mauritius

Madagascar For policies that do not exclude the most disadvantaged people

In Madagascar, ATD is active in Antananarivo (Antohomadinika and Andramiarana), Toliara and Mahajanga. From 2011 to 2014, it partnered with AFD (the French development agency) to carry out a project called “Together, lift up our heads” (Miara-mitraka). This program for development and social transformation aimed to improve the living conditions of the most underprivileged people by providing access to training, culture and decent work. In order to build links within communities and to catalyze transformation, the program provided cash transfers, cultural projects, and youth training to work in plumbing or in the restaurant trade. It created green jobs in the reforestation sector, and fair trade jobs through the MMM cooperative (working and learning together). In addition, the program invited understanding and solidarity from public opinion and the state authorities.

A seminar to assess the Millennium Development Goals at the World Bank

This seminar took place in February 2013, on the premises of the World Bank in Antananarivo. It brought together around 50 people, including people living in extreme poverty; representatives of anti-poverty NGOs, representatives of the Ministries of Population, of Education and Professional Training, of Youth and Leisure, and of Technical Training; as well as representatives of UNICEF, the UNDP, AFD, the French Embassy and the World Bank.

The method for dialogue used made it possible to construct observations and proposals involving all of the participants in three areas: employment and social protection; education and professional training; citizenship and responsibility. The aim was to come up with proposals that were approved by all and that could be passed onto the different institutions.

In response to a joint observation that rights were violated, the following proposals were made:

- Put in place a national anti-poverty policy, designed with people in extreme poverty.
- Draw up and validate with them an interim social protection plan based on the existing national policy for social protection. This should be done in compliance with basic human rights, in particular education, health and employment.
- Ensure free basic training and professional training nationally.
- Develop education on citizens' rights and responsibility. Create decentralized structures for airing grievances and for seeking advice on compliance with rights.
- Allow people living in poverty to have responsibilities in the development of the districts they live in.

In the middle of an emergency, don't forget the future

For two months during 2015, the country was battered by punishing cyclones. In Toliara, crops were ruined; in Antananarivo, flooding damaged the low-lying districts after levees were breached. Many homes were destroyed. Houses made from plastic sheeting and cardboard could not stand up to the driving rain. Families who lost their homes were moved. Some found shelter in public buildings; others were housed in tents (some of which were not waterproof), set up by international organizations. Adults took turns in returning to their homes for the night in order to protect their modest possessions, including livestock. People living in extreme poverty have long known that an emergency should not mean that we lose sight of the future. They have repeatedly warned the authorities of the importance of constructing long-term projects and of thinking with them about sustainable means of coping with the cyclone season. Although the cyclones were hard for everyone to



cope with, notwithstanding the difficulties faced by everyone, members of ATD made the time to visit personally the hardest-hit communities in Antohomadinika and Andramiarana, because they know that the hardest thing to bear is isolation. Young people, working with associations, cleared the narrow canals in the alleys so that stagnant water could flow off. In order to prevent disease, they placed bags of gravel to bank roads at risk of flooding. ATD worked with the heads of the *fokontany* (district leaders) and with the national bureau for managing risks and catastrophes, which organized help for victims. The ATD team worked hard to ensure that nobody was left out.

During the same period, ATD continued to ensure activities for learning and creativity for children to experience a time of peace and joy. Despite the damage being done by floods, one facilitator introduced

children to the benefits of water in a project where they planted beans in plastic cups. Sometime later, the children began grinning to see that their beans had grown between 5 and 10 centimeters, representing a ray of hope in the middle of chaos.

In the same spirit, in August 2015, ATD ran a Festival of Knowledge and Arts, first in Andramiarana and then in Antohomadinika. Inhabitants were proud to welcome people from other communities to share their knowledge. A mother said: "I can't believe that other people are interested in our work at the dump. We're proud and happy to be able to share our mat-weaving skills with all of our friends and guests." At the end of the main road lives a quadriplegic child. His young friends wanted him to be part of the party and so they took turns carrying him on their backs. Everyone was happy to reach out to those who had even less than they did.

Republic of Mauritius

Participation of all, the key for successful projects

ATD Fourth World (active in the Republic of Mauritius since 1980) has formed links with several regions and villages — Beau-Bassin, Anoska, Vuillemin, Richelieu, Case-Noyale, Citéla-Cure, Sainte-Croix, Souillac, African Town, and Bois-Marchand.

ATD's focus in Mauritius is to help the poorest of families to access rights, as well as to offer their children the chance to build friendship and solidarity with other children through Tapor groups. ATD also creates partnerships with different NGOs. In working with low-income adults, ATD helps them to think and act as stakeholders in their communities and to interact with people from other communities by experimenting with the Merging Knowledge methodology.

This Merging Knowledge approach was the focus of a two-year program launched by the Department of Social Studies at Cardinal Jean Margéot Institute and ATD Fourth World. Participants included 25 social workers, around 100 adults living in poverty, and



several academics and practitioners. In late 2012, a paper outlining this work, “Methods for Fighting Poverty,” was presented to the President of Mauritius, His Excellency Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, and to several ministries and institutions.

An assessment of this in-depth work was completed in April 2015. Thirty interviews in Creole or French were conducted with people living in poverty, practitioners or academics. “We all had the same aim and took the same path. Everyone played a role in the process,” said one participant.

Most participants acquired new knowledge in terms of communicating, listening, and respect. “These were moments of intense sharing which allowed me to express myself. When you’ve got something on your mind and you’re unable to talk about it, this has such an effect on you that it can make you ill,” said one mother.

The project was educational and sometimes changed people’s practices. One academic said, “I held prejudices; I used to think in the place of others. The October 2012 meeting triggered a change in me and we were able to write a joint paper in a spirit of partnership and to present it to the press.”

“The major revolution,” said one project leader “was on the part of the social workers. When they came into contact with [low-income] families, they realized that what they had been doing wasn’t necessarily the right way.”

This long process of maturing led to the creation of Liniversite Karmond Moris — a Mauritian branch of the Fourth World People’s University — the first meeting of which took place on March 13, 2016.

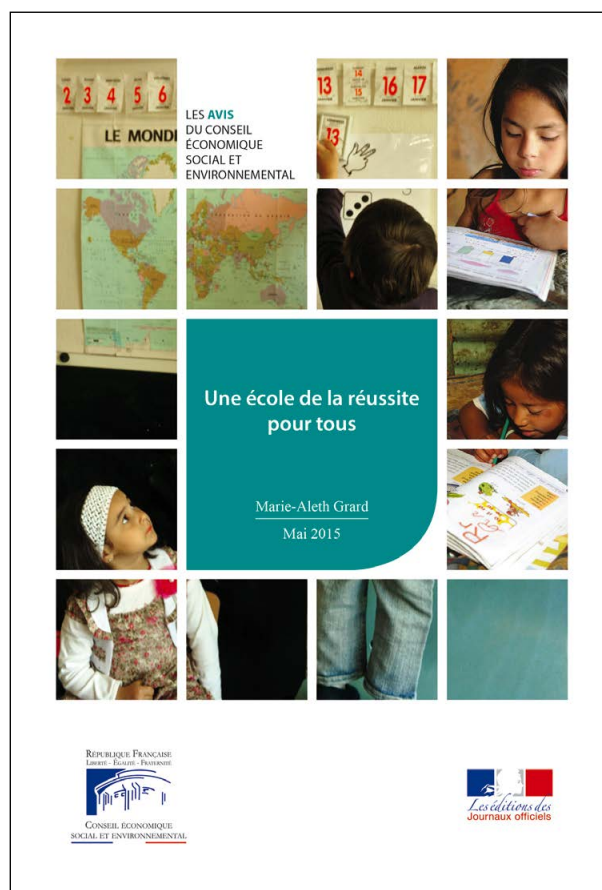
Réunion Island For a school where success can be achieved by all

It is suffering linked to history and resistance that unites the inhabitants of this French overseas department. ATD Fourth World seeks to experience with the very poorest members of society — those on the edge — the ideal of tolerance and diversity that forms a common identity. Cultural actions, such as Street Libraries, the Fourth World People’s University, Festivals of Learning, and family days, all play a role.

In 2014, **ATD responded to the request to contribute to a CESE²⁹ report on “A school where success can be achieved by all.”** This engaged many people because one out of three young people leaves the local school system without a certificate, and one out of seven is unable to read or write. Activists reached out to parents; meetings were organized in several neighborhoods; two-day long sessions brought together parents and teaching staff; and finally a video conference featured the authors of the report.

The parent-teacher group visited a nursery school that could serve as an example to all. They identified several key success factors. The teaching team is stable and the school, which is small, is subsidized by the municipality. The teaching team makes sure that parents are able to trust them. The children are assessed with the help of the parents who are then able to witness the progress made. Parents come to the school to sing. They create vacation workbooks for their children to use. All opportunities, such as holidays, are taken advantage of to draw on the parents’ talents.

Throughout their work to contribute to the CESE report, as the group noted challenges for low-income students, they also highlighted paths to success they observed. When low-income parents had



trouble making themselves understood, they helped encourage each other to speak up more. When a school was unfamiliar with the family life of children in poverty, one teacher convinced her colleagues to think about the financial resources of the parents. Faced with disabilities, an association engages competent professionals. Faced with the issue of the regional language, a mother convinced a teacher of the Creole language to give her child extra lessons. Faced with vocational tracking, one teacher ensures that young people discover their passion. This work, in addition to being very useful for the CESE, has given all parties a boost and encouraged them to work towards success for all.



NORTH AMERICA

In the US, ATD has small teams active in New York, the Appalachian Mountains, New Orleans, New Mexico, Washington, D.C., and Boston. In Chicago, ATD has a center for archives.

Nine full-time volunteers have joined these teams, making it possible to start new exploratory work in low-income neighborhoods. They looked for those with the most difficult living conditions in order to learn about their life-long resistance against extreme poverty as well as about their hopes and aspirations. To achieve this, Volunteer Corps members live in very low-income areas to share the experience of poverty. ATD's long-term approach is based on building a deep understanding of people, one that will enable them to become partners in their own liberation.

Each team builds its action in its own original way. In New York, people living in poverty do outreach to meet their peers and give them support. In New Orleans, the team moved into the 7th Ward and has developed relationships through the Street Library for children and informal "Stoop Talk" discussions with residents. In New Mexico, the team is getting to know the multicultural community of Gallup and more specifically many Native Americans.

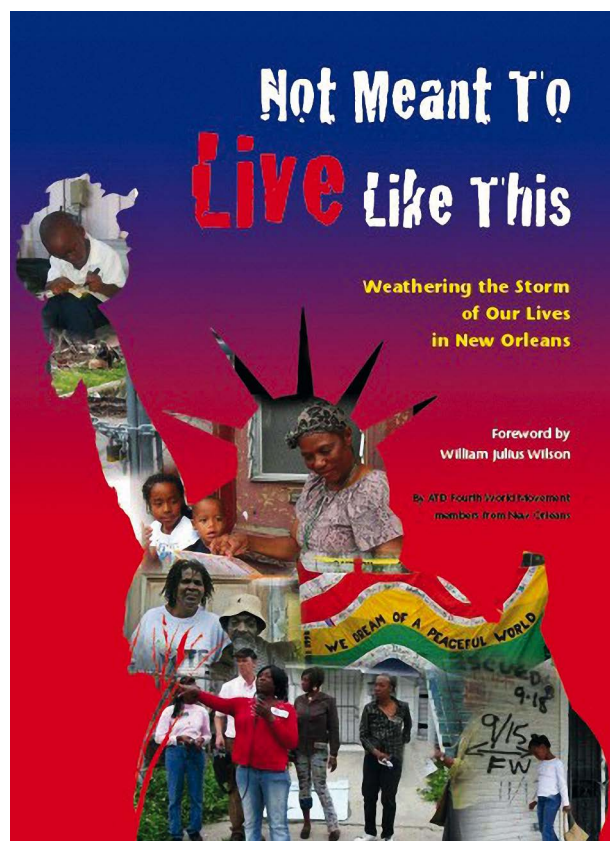
Through an effort to produce knowledge drawing on these different experiences, exchanges highlighted how much extreme poverty constitutes in and of itself a form of violence. It also showed that, in spite of everything, people in poverty still find ways to search for peace. These discussions started between people with experience of poverty and were later expanded to include academics and other partners.

New Orleans

After Hurricane Katrina, a collective book: *Not Meant to Live Like This*

Over five years, collaboration on a collective book enabled fifty people in poverty whose lives were impacted by Hurricane Katrina to reflect on their life experiences before, during, and after the disaster. This was done in partnership with professionals and academics. The book enabled its authors to express their solidarity and their resilience in the midst of the struggle to cope with the destruction of their hometown, New Orleans. The hurricane scattered them far and wide. Many were never able to return because the city's reconstruction efforts led to the destruction of social housing as well as rent increases so high that low-income families can no longer live there. The authors did a speaking tour to present their work.

"Our book was made for the whole world to know about our struggles, our sufferings and the strength that we need to raise our children and live decently with the little that we have. Our book is the testimony of our lives so the world never forgets what we endured and what we are still enduring." – Sylvia Miller, co-author



New Mexico

Meeting Native American families in Gallup



In 2011, the team settled in this region mostly inhabited by Native Americans. Everyday activities led the team to start creating connections with vulnerable families, as well as with teachers, associations, and other residents. Projects and partnerships emerged from these informal relationships. Two Street Libraries now take place on a weekly basis, one in a flea market that draws families from throughout the region. Creativity workshops in schools led to the creation of interactive exhibits hosted at the local library and in schools. In partnership with the University of New Mexico-Gallup, the team facilitated a collective art project at the Gallup Detention Center. This partnership also led to the creation of a giant mosaic and a booklet of autobiographical stories by students. These projects support families in their own efforts to encourage their children. They also support children in achieving their potential. These all are local projects offering opportunities for those who are marginalized.

Massachusetts

Partnership with the University of Massachusetts-Boston

ATD worked in collaboration with the CSP, Center for Social Policy, at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, where it introduced the Merging of Knowledge approach. At the university, individuals who experienced poverty (Constituent Advisors) reflect on and discuss social policies with individuals from the business sector (Emerging Leaders). Each year, the group gathers 12 to 16 participants. Each year, new business leaders are trained by constituent advisers, forming a stable team. Through this mutual and collective training, people create a community of trust and a unique space where each individual can bring his own point of view and experience.

Here are some of their comments: “These meetings helped me open my eyes and engage with the world around me, instead of just saying: ‘this is terrible’”; “You understand people better when you see them differently, without any judgment”; “We learned how to impact an employer instead of saying: ‘He is never going to hire me.’”

The Emerging Leaders bring about change within their own place of work, for example by encouraging the hiring of people who, through their life experience, can bring positive assets even when their CVs may not exactly match the initial job offer. One participant said, “This program has changed the way I see my job: instead of always thinking in terms of blacks/whites, rich/poor, I now take decisions in a more balanced way.”

South Virginia

Computers, patchwork, solar energy and robotics

ATD is active in southwest Virginia, in the Appalachian Mountains. Though the region suffers economically from the closure of coalmines, it is also rich in creativity, music, crafts, etc. Two members of ATD's Volunteer Corps went to live there and came to know people close to families living in poverty. This is how a community center started, providing computer classes to over 500 adults over several years. ATD also opened a Learning Co-op where women gather each week to work together on making patchwork quilts. Recently activities at the Co-op were open to young people, many faced with school failure, unemployment, and drug use. They were able to rediscover their own energy and resourcefulness by taking part in the solar-robotics workshop at the Learning Co-op. They installed solar panels and robots powered by this energy, despite the fact that elsewhere in their region, there is no trace of new technologies or of successful future-oriented businesses.



New York

Street Libraries, People's University

ATD's center is established on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. **Through Street Libraries — in a low-income neighborhood of Brooklyn and in an emergency shelter in Queens — ATD has built very strong relationships with families.**



Every summer, Festivals of Learning take place in these two underserved communities. Festivals extend weekly Street Libraries and offer reading and artistic activities, cooperative games, to meet these needs. Parents and community members are very involved in supporting and contributing to these summer festivals.

At the **People's University held at the Fourth World House in Manhattan**, adults and young people have in-depth exchanges on the challenges they face. It is a space for dialogue and mutual training between people living in poverty and others who do not have this experience



Recently, members of ATD Fourth World in New York traveled to Canada to attend the People's University of Montreal and learn about other projects led by the team in Canada.

In 2015, the People's University participants took the responsibility of preparing the commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at the United Nations. Several capacity-building workshops led to a participatory research project based on messages sent from Africa, Asia and Europe, all looked at in light of with the experience of poverty of the US group members. This led to a collective position paper presented to the United Nations.

The People's University has benefited more than 100 people, with an average of 30 per session, including people in poverty.

New York is also the place for the international public representation at the United Nations, with a particular connection to the lives and thinking of people in extreme poverty in New York, the US and worldwide. (See Part I: Advocacy for poverty eradication through international institutions).



Canada

Campaign against misconceptions about poverty, research about equitable health care, People's University

ATD Fourth World is active in Quebec, with local groups in several regions and a permanent team based in Montreal to coordinate its projects.³⁰ Street Libraries and Festivals of Learning are organized in disadvantaged neighborhoods of Montreal. Other projects encourage the civic participation of people in poverty (through the People's University, as well as research projects using a Merging of Knowledge approach with academic partners). Policy work is also

carried out to influence public opinion or to advocate for government change (through a committee on legal issues, or about October 17, the World Day for Overcoming Poverty).

A campaign against misconceptions about poverty was launched, because people living in poverty explained the harm done by the prejudice they face. With them, tools were created to help put an end to



many myths and misconceptions about poverty. For instance, statistics and other research shows that work is neither accessible to all nor a guarantee to lift people out of poverty. Other figures show that supporting low-income individuals and families benefits society more than sanctioning them and that tax evasion causes the state to lose much more money than welfare fraud. Fighting against misconceptions is part of overcoming poverty. Publicizing correct facts helps to oppose cuts in social welfare programs that are often based on erroneous misconceptions.

Some 10,000 handbooks (small booklets of 12 pages dismantling four preconceived ideas through a clear and detailed argumentation) were distributed to community organizations and citizens. A series of video clips were published on Facebook and reached an audience of more than 50,000 people.³¹

Research about **equitable health care**

From 2011 to 2015, ATD Fourth World's members — among them some with experience of poverty — joined healthcare professionals and researchers to carry out a participatory research project called EQUISanTÉ³². Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and done **in partnership with the University of Sherbrooke, this research project aimed to develop equity-focused primary care for**

people living in poverty by highlighting the barriers between them and healthcare professionals. For instance, one person living in poverty expressed the idea that a qualified doctor could sometimes act “as cold as ice.” Her point was the need for physicians to build a caring human relationship with their patients. In another example, a discussion about infant formula allowed a hospital doctor to realize that his way of addressing the topic was different according to whether he was talking to a person in poverty or not.

The People's University – Since 2011, its members have met five times a year in Montreal after preparatory work with their local group in seven regions of Quebec. In 2011-2012, a participatory research project was conducted by the members of the People's University with the support of a professor from the UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal) to assess the progress made with this project.³³ The evaluation showed that the People's University enables its members to become less isolated and reinforces their capacity to assert themselves. In addition, **this project calls on society, inviting everyone to act in solidarity**. It also enables the voices of people in poverty to be heard by decision makers. Finally, these exchanges allow everyone to learn from experiences of poverty and to fight against prejudice.



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ATD is present in Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru. In addition, through the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty, close links exist with individuals or organizations working against poverty in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Argentina.

All ATD's projects in this region have a common goal of creating public spaces of participation for those who live in extreme poverty and those from other socio-economic backgrounds. These projects promote social integration through different ways to

come together: art and culture in Bolivia; gardening and nature in Brazil; group discussions on education and healthcare systems in Guatemala, Peru and Haiti. In all these projects, people living in poverty develop their ability to speak up and share their thoughts and ideas with others. This is possible thanks to the commitment of others who reach out to the most excluded people and encourage them until they feel their dignity is respected and are able to access their fundamental rights. Here are some examples of how these projects contribute to building momentum to overcome extreme poverty.

Bolivia Friendship House

It is in the city of **El Alto** that the first members of ATD Fourth World engaged in Bolivia, encouraging the creation of a Friendship House (La Casa de la Amistad) in the district of Senkata, to help **build a community without exclusion through arts and cultural activities, as well as a place for community reflection and dialogue.**

Most El Alto residents have migrated from rural areas. They are often victims of exploitation at work and face intense discrimination. Half of them are native speakers of the indigenous Aymara language. Many adults, young people and children in search of survival have taken odd jobs in the informal sector, work that guarantees no security. Even those working in



construction or industry are generally exploited and receive salaries placing them below the poverty line.

The Friendship House is their house. Through various workshops, mothers and fathers, children and people

of all ages have learned to play musical instruments, perform traditional dances, do carpentry, or theater... and above all to build relationships among neighbors and with people who live on the other side of the town in very different socio-economic conditions.

Peru

The “Uyarinakusunchis” People’s University

The People’s University offers a space for dialogue, awareness and action surrounding poverty issues. It allows the most excluded people to speak up and to develop their own thinking and identities as Fourth World activists. This project is known as *Uyarinakusunchis* (“listening to ourselves” in the Quechua language). It takes place in Cusco and Cuyo Grande. It enables people living in poverty to affirm their public speaking skills and to take part in international advocacy discussions and reflections.

The preparations to celebrate the World Day for Overcoming Poverty each October 17 create a powerful dynamic. On October 17, 2015, thirty families walked seven kilometers, from Percca to Cuyo Grande, carrying banners and singing songs about courage and hope. Once they arrived at the cultural house of Cuyo Grande, they spent time discussing poverty in other countries after watching the film “Extreme Poverty Is Violence.” They said, “In the film, we saw families living among garbage, and children playing in contaminated streams; how is this



possible?” And “It is interesting to see that there are people who come together to do community projects just as we do here.”

Brazil

Community education in Mirantão

Education is a key investment for the team in Mirantão. **The local school was transformed by the community, parents and teachers.** Initially, the Street Library donated books and art materials to the school. On receiving the donation, teachers spoke about their frustrations at not being able to ensure a good future for their students. The children were asked to share their dreams for the school. This led them to become more active in it. Once a week, the school is open to the community and it is the parents who become teachers, sharing their traditional knowledge. This helped overcome resentment felt by parents towards school because they often had a negative memory of school from their childhood.



Because a grandmother showed the children the art of vegetable gardening, the school now has a garden and all children can taste the vegetables they produce. This activity is also a basis for teaching because it is used as an opportunity to integrate academic content into the gardening. Another transformation of the school and the community took place at the invitation of an educator. When classes were opened up, taking account not the children's ages but instead the skills they had

yet to acquire, all the children gained in confidence and felt integrated and happy. Following these changes, a group of mothers asked to learn to read. A strong group of supporters and friends came together around them both for literacy classes, and to practice traditional crafts together. In this atmosphere, **parents no longer felt ashamed of their traditional knowledge and were able to pass it down to their children, thus greatly increasing the well-being of the community.**

Guatemala "Working and Learning Together"

A hands-on craft workshop, "Working and Learning Together" was started in 2009 in Guatemala City. This project, launched and developed with people in poverty, is a place where useful and decorative objects are made out of recycled materials **to generate income. It is based on solidarity, mutual support and the artisans' contribution to the design and promotion of their work.**

Four years after the start, artisans carried out an in-depth evaluation of the workshop. They met regularly to reflect on what they had learned, what they had gained and what they brought to the project. In addition to the regular income and handicraft skills acquisition, other benefits they named included experience, friendship, self-confidence, and the ability to express and surpass themselves.

"I gained wisdom and understanding. There are many things I couldn't do before, now I can, though I would have never imagined it. I also learned to be tolerant, patient and feel stronger when facing hardships. We learned how to remain united." – Doña Maritza Orozco

"I learned to trust myself. Before, I did not know that my hands could do all these things. Now I know how to weave. I learned many things at the workshop, and also outside the workshop. I was a butterfly still in its cocoon, now I can stand on my own two feet by creating my crafts."
– Vivi Astrid Itzep

The operating principles were formulated together:

- Everyone is respected. There is no fixed schedule; everyone learns at their own pace
- You can be absent without ceasing to be a member of the workshop
- The pace of work of each person is respected
- We are not given orders
- Each of us takes turns to prepare the coffee breaks; the breaks are a time to relax together



- We do not come only to work; we are given the chance to contribute ideas, to think, to explore together what we want to do
- We are paid for our craftsmanship, in addition to the basic compensation for our time
- The profits generated from the sale of handicrafts is put into a common pot and redistributed among all craftspeople to ensure a minimum income for everyone

ATD has been identified as a powerful asset to the workshop's success:

"For me, ATD is and it was a place where I grew as a person, where I developed myself and where I learned to recognize my abilities and the abilities of others. I could be supportive, in connection with others and could express myself, and give my views freely. ATD was my school, where I found the source of my strength for living." – Glendy Rosales Tepeu

Haiti

Actions for healthcare and culture

In Haiti, projects promoting access to healthcare and access to culture are intertwined. They reinforce one another and thus enable better engagement from people. Several projects — such as “Babies Welcome,” the pre-school “Seeds of Hope,” Street Libraries, the computer workshop, campaigns of knowledge, civic life — all contribute to this collective dynamic. This is strengthened each year by the World Day for Overcoming Poverty.

Since the mid 90s, ATD Fourth World and the Ecumenical Service of Solidarity have run a system facilitating access to healthcare for the most vulnerable populations in the district of Haut Martissant (Port-au-Prince, Haiti). This system, which has evolved over the years, now enables participating families to have access to a health system that is not limited to emergency care but also includes secondary care and specialized consultations. This system’s costs are low: less than \$12 per year per person. It is paid for through a solidarity fund.

In 2013, 758 families were registered, that is to say 3,175 individuals including 556 children under the age of five. The number of beneficiaries has gone up over the years and needs are always greater.

An evaluation carried out in 2014 highlighted that health is made even more fragile by poor living conditions, a degraded environment harmful to human health, and deteriorating economic conditions.

Access to care is significantly facilitated by this system. The participating families, despite living in a fragile economic situation, are well protected against catastrophic or simply elevated health-related expenses.

Another highlight shown by the evaluation was the monitoring and continuity in healthcare. Families are involved in its operation and in different aspects of their healthcare, becoming “agents” to promote their own health.

From the outset, participants have collaborated in working groups to reflect on the operation and evolution of the project, thus having an active role in the process. In 2013, a committee was formed consisting of the staff, the managers of the health card, and representatives of the insured families.

Regional seminar

In order to capitalize on and consolidate all the experiences and approaches of cultural and educational activities carried out by the teams in Latin American and the Caribbean, a four-day seminar was held in Guatemala in November 2014. Members of ATD Fourth World from Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru worked on the theme “Useful education for all: Street Libraries as a tool.” They reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that all children can benefit from education and to creating knowledge with the intelligence of all.

They expanded on fundamental questions about the aims of our projects: do we foster cooperation and knowledge as tools for empowerment? Do we support enough those who have the greatest difficulties? Are we sufficiently rigorous in our projects? Do we prepare and evaluate fairly? How can Street Library facilitators in different countries communicate to exchange ideas?



ASIA

ATD Fourth World has a permanent presence in the Philippines and Thailand and coordinates a network of friends involved in overcoming poverty throughout South-east Asia and in Chinese-speaking communities. Cultural activities — such as Street Libraries, Festivals of Learning, Community Forums, or a project to promote basic literacy (“Ang Galing”) in Manila for children who are not attending school — reach places and communities grappling with very harsh realities.

ATD Fourth World-Asia contributes to the efforts of international and regional institutions, for

instance through a participation in the “Education for All” (EFA) initiative run by the regional UNESCO office in Bangkok, as well as several other regional consultations.

Asian correspondents of the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty are linked by the publication *Asian Forum Letter* which publicizes their experiences and innovations. They are associated with international research and evaluation conducted by ATD Fourth World, for example on the themes of “Extreme Poverty Is Violence,” an evaluation of the impact of the MDGs with people in poverty, Education for All, etc.

Philippines Climate and environment, relocation of families

ATD is active in Manila and has been mainly engaged with families in two very poor neighborhoods: one community living in a municipal cemetery and another one living under a bridge. In this very informal settlement, dwellings much too short to stand in were cobbled together on the underside of the bridge. Overcrowded, and directly over canal water, they vibrate every time a truck passes. The hundreds of residents were exposed to floods and diseases caused by water pollution. However, they preferred to stay there because this bustling part of the city allowed them to make a living through informal odd jobs. In

recent years, the government has undertaken large-scale operations to clean the canals and try to limit harm from floods that have increased, partly due to global warming, rising sea levels, and repeated typhoons. Communities living along the canals like those under this bridge were offered alternative housing in remote areas, previously uninhabited. The new social housing consists of large tracts of small apartments with one room per family, reimbursable by a 30-year loan. Due to the isolation of the sites, most adults have no means of subsistence and must return to town to work. Transportation is very expensive





for their small budgets, so those who work in Manila cannot afford to go home more than a few times per month. This leads some families to abandon the new homes, reluctantly.

"I miss my wife and children. I do not have the means to go visit them more than once a month."

"My daughter misses her former teacher. She is afraid of the one here and no longer wants to go to school."

"Food is way more expensive here than in Manila!"

"If you come here, even more people will be hungry! You have to adapt to hunger. At first, the stomach hurts"

In 2013, ATD Fourth World Philippines received a Special Mention at the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic awarded by the French National Consultative Commission of Human Rights for the "Unheard Voices" project which supported people to make their voices heard and their rights respected throughout this relocation process and in their constant efforts to adapt to the changes related to urban development.

The Volunteer Corps team supports families by helping them to apply for the official papers that give them access to relocation options. Volunteers also

help families to cope with the relocation, sometimes including disappointments and unmet expectations. Particular attention is given to the most vulnerable and marginalized families who often lack basic identity papers. Access to their civil and social rights is more difficult for these families. Community Forums are thus a particularly place for them. Their children participate in the Street Libraries. Children who are not attending school can also attend a basic literacy program. These activities, begun under the bridge, still continue today in the various sites where families have now been relocated. The same activities are run for families living in the northern cemetery, where no relocation has been offered to date.

A constructive dialogue has begun with the authorities responsible for managing the relocation program, encouraging them to take into account the thoughts of adults expressed in the Community Forums.

For instance, during the July 2014 Forum on "displacement, resettlement and livelihoods," an official in charge of the relocation program learned something fundamental: *"I'm surprised but also very interested to learn from the community members that obtaining a scholarship for children plays a decisive role in the decision whether or not to accept moving and relocating outside the city."* Ms. Yuson, a friend of ATD Fourth World, said about these discussions: *"We felt a true desire to understand each other, to think and learn together. There were many people and everyone's voice was heard. There was a great sense of solidarity among the participants."*

Sharing with the international community

With the support of UNICEF-Philippines, ATD Fourth World published in November 2015 a booklet entitled *Partners in Development: Listening to the Voices of Families Living in Poverty*. This paper is a contribution from people experiencing poverty and involved in the Community Forum program. Their goal through the booklet is to help and encourage local community development workers in their willingness to seek out the most forgotten families and individuals. There are reports of sometimes significant discrepancies between the desired objectives of the programs and the realities on the ground. This shows that the strategies set up by the people living in poverty to address their problems themselves are little known and poorly respected. The booklet presents proposals developed with them, to give people in poverty more chances to be partners in programs that affect them.

Thailand

Friends of ATD Fourth World-Thailand Foundation

The team based in Bangkok works with the Friends of ATD Thailand Foundation. **The emphasis of their work has focused in recent years on developing tools for dialogue — in elementary and secondary schools — with children and young people about the issues of poverty and social discrimination.** The Taporí mini-book *The True Story of Fon, a Child from Thailand* inspired a series of activities, which expanded in many countries thanks to the dynamism of young students in several Asian countries, who translated the mini book into eleven Asian languages. Everywhere it was used, the mini-book created opportunities for storytelling to present in a positive light the lives of children like Fon and their families who show courage and dignity to

change their lives. The UNDP Regional Director for Asia, Mr. Minar Pimple, head of the campaign for the Millennium Development Goals, took the initiative to distribute electronic versions of this mini-book on October 17 in all UNDP offices worldwide. A new Taporí story was published in 2015 at the initiative of a young Indonesian friend of ATD, and the corresponding mini-book has already been published in four Asian languages and circulated in the countries where those languages are spoken.

In November 2014, a seminar, “Promoting Cooperation among Learners, Parents, and Teachers for the Success of Each Child,” was organized by ATD Fourth World-Thailand in partnership with an organization called MATI-Bangladesh. It brought together educational partners from civil society, teachers, parents and young people from Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the active collaboration of ATD Fourth World-Thailand at a regional working group set up by UNESCO’s regional office in Bangkok as part of the **“Education for All” initiative enabled ATD to reach a wider audience and to join the efforts and research in the field of education in Asia.**

These investments have consolidated ATD’s contribution to the Education 2030 Framework for Action for Asia and the Pacific (APMED, December 2015) for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education. ATD promoted to the rank of best practices the approaches that people experiencing poverty and education stakeholders have carried out with success and that they want to see developed. These are ensuring quality relationships between teachers and communities, supporting the active participation of parents in the life of educational institutions, and establishing cooperative learning centered on the inclusion of all children rather than allowing some children to be excluded based on competition or lack of money to pay for private tutoring.



Meeting with Chinese-speaking people

ATD Fourth World has been connected with Chinese-speaking communities in Asia since 1988. These connections lead to new encounters and to seeking a philosophical vision of humankind in a shared destiny.

Translations as Action

The translation of ATD Fourth World's founding texts was a priority in order to encourage discussions and exchanges. A roundtable was organized in 2013 to announce the publication in Mandarin Chinese of ATD's book *The Poor Are the Church*. This event was attended by more than 100 individuals, university professors, professionals, NGO representatives, activists, and religious leaders. Many said that this book challenges their knowledge and understanding of people living in poverty as well as their own commitment. Other books already translated into Mandarin include: "Overcoming Extreme Poverty," "Voices for Tomorrow," "The Secret of Hope,"³⁴ and twelve Taporini mini books for children. In addition, a translation of *Artisans of Democracy* will soon be completed.

Action through presence

The Chinese-speakers with whom ATD has initiated dialogue include individuals, as well as groups and institutions that are involved with people and groups from disadvantaged backgrounds. For example, for ten years now, members of ATD's Volunteer Corps have been living in a district of Hualien, in the west of the island of Taiwan. This is a mixed area, with both a Han Chinese population and also Aboriginal people, mainly from the Sakizaya ethnicity. As part of their active

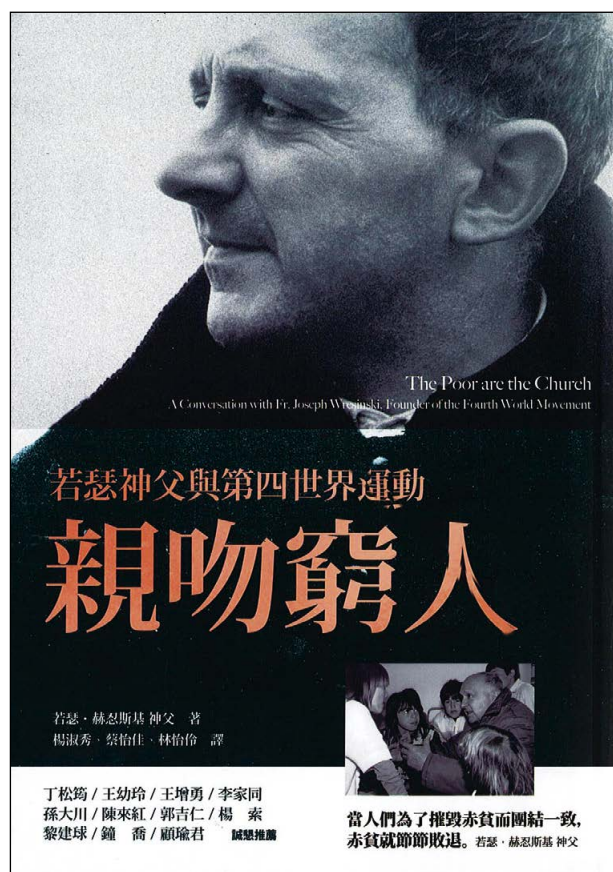


presence in the community, they frequent the neighborhood, volunteer in the kindergarten, and share books. Through this close proximity to the local population, volunteers learned of the deep pain caused by the placement of children in foster care. Drawing on the experience of despair felt by so many families, a panel discussion entitled "How Poverty Separates Parents and Children" was held in Taipei in April 2014.

Exploring the philosophical vision of humankind led ATD to invite three Chinese public figures from Beijing, Xi'an, and Taipei to Switzerland in June 2015 to delve into this critical issue.

A network of friends

People from China and the Chinese diaspora around the world have made essential commitments to grow and progress in overcoming poverty. These friends of ATD Fourth World give their time, share what they know about the most marginalized citizens in Beijing, Xi'an, Hong Kong, and on the island of Taiwan. They also help support ATD financially. In addition, ATD is linked to a dozen universities and thirty associations, notably for events to mark the World Day for Overcoming Poverty every October 17.



EUROPE

STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC VALUES

ATD Fourth World is active in eleven European countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

An exploration is currently underway in Bulgaria.

When Europe is adopting a hardened attitude and increasingly making decisions not consistent with EU values, it is people living in extreme poverty who are hit first. The European democratic project should include those whose contribution is missing because of their exclusion from the places where decisions are made.

ATD makes connections between the local, national and regional levels and has created collaborations and exchanges to connect some of the most excluded people with officials from various nations and European institutions. In 2012-2015, ten people were engaged in advocacy and political representation of ATD (at the European Youth Foundation, Council of Europe, the representation to the European Union).

In their advocacy, they make known ATD's grassroots work through the People's University network, projects for young people, capacity building, and innovation and action plans).

The different action dynamics for ATD's teams in Europe are developed during biannual meetings of about sixty of its members, from ten different European countries. These meetings allowing exchanges, knowledge sharing, and also the development of common European objectives. Working in networks was strongly encouraged and developed through several projects including a dynamic for young people, the People's University network, a dynamic for "Researchers in Art," the exploration based in Bulgaria and including Central and Eastern Europe, and a European legal committee. All these networks brought together people involved with ATD Fourth World in different parts of Europe.

Here are few examples of these actions.

Delegation to the European Union, Advancing policy proposals

ATD Fourth World has permanent representatives to the European Union and to the Council of Europe. Within the European Youth Forum, the youth branch of ATD-Europe called "Djynamo" brings the voices of young people in deep poverty. These efforts have the common goal of developing policy proposals (see below) to move forward the European institutions' agenda in overcoming poverty. The proposals below, based on dialogue with people in extreme poverty, aim to make their voice and contribution to Europe's future heard. ATD Fourth World also facilitated discussions where officials and parliamentarians from European institutions were able to speak about why they are committed to social change, as well as to reflect with people in poverty about their role in European integration and how policy-makers could act on their behalf. One such discussion took place at the European Parliament in the Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Intergroup.

The intergroup is chaired by Sylvie Goulard for the 2014-2019 parliamentary term. It organized several

meetings on current event in the presence of European Commissioners. It also organizes an annual event for the World Day for Overcoming Poverty. It also proposed amendments to current reports, put written questions to the Commission, adopted positions, and raised awareness through thematic discussions with stakeholders working at the community level.



For example, Juan Jiménez and Dani Garcia spoke on April 21, 2015, at the intergroup session on the issue of homelessness: “Those who believe that housing is only a place to live are wrong; it is the condition for accessing many important things in life. Housing is what gives access to employment and health. And unfortunately in our society, when you do not have any address, then you do not exist.” The two Spanish delegates were part of an action-research workshop led by ATD Fourth World on decent housing in Madrid. They shared their experience and expertise on the matter in the presence of the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, as well as political officials, NGOs and European parliamentarians who work in this intergroup.³⁵

They pointed out the contradictions of a system that makes it almost impossible for people living in the most difficult situations to access social housing. “When there is no legal way to access housing, people are forced to find alternatives themselves, such as occupying empty flats, living in slums, trailers, or vans. This puts them in an even more difficult situation because they become invisible to the institutions.” The president of the intergroup raised this question to the whole European Commission.

Since 1989, ATD Fourth World has organized a European People’s University every two years.

Most of them have been supported by the European Economic and Social Committee. On March 5, 2014, a People’s University was held for the first time at the European Parliament in connection with the Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Intergroup, and with the support of the “Europe for Citizens” program of the European Union. ATD also heavily invested in the Alliance for the European Year of Citizens as a member of its steering committee. ATD can also count on the ECEC (European Policy Action Group), a group in which activists reflect on European representation and advocacy to bring it closer to people living in deep poverty. This group was created following the European People’s University in 2014 to build on the dynamic of knowledge shared between two groups: people in poverty speaking about their experiences and aspirations; and policy-makers speaking about the potential and limitations of European institutions. In order to prepare for this European People’s University, people in poverty from ten countries worked for a year with European officials, trade union representatives and academics who explained the European texts that underlie anti-poverty policy, such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or the European Social Charter.

Together, and using the Merging Knowledge approach, they drafted fourteen proposals to increase solidarity in Europe. Among these:

- **The right to exist:** ensuring to all individuals within its territory the right to a legal existence
- **Education:** ensuring that equal opportunities are provided, as well as equal quality education for all, by avoiding early tracking and a hierarchy of educational options that reinforce inequalities
- **Employment:** supporting the creation of decent jobs, especially in local businesses, allowing people far outside the labor market with no qualifications to be useful through recognized work
- **Minimum wage:** implementing a European directive on a decent livelihood for each person, including in all member countries a decent minimum income that takes into account the cost of housing
- **Participation:** establishing permanent spaces for reflection and dialogue with people with the experience of poverty, in connection with other partners, to ensure the contribution of those affected, both in policymaking and the evaluation of results
- **Discrimination:** incorporating into the multi-year program of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights the opportunity to examine violations of rights and discrimination related to extreme poverty, by involving people living in these situations.

This People’s University at the European Parliament brought together 250 people: individuals living without security; activists from a dozen countries; politicians and European officials; citizens sympathetic to the cause; professionals; and trade union members. The topics discussed were chosen in view of the then upcoming European elections of May 2014: “All actors of democracy? Is having a job a right? What access to basic rights for those who live in precarious conditions?” These proposals were addressed both to candidates in the elections and to citizens in hopes that all people would support their implementation.

During the People’s University, ATD Fourth World’s Director General, Isabelle Perrin, said, “Extreme poverty is not a marginal issue. This is a crucial issue for Europe; there cannot be a Europe of democracy, of peace, of human rights, as long as poverty exists within it.” In conclusion, MP Sylvie Goulard invited the audience to become ambassadors of the European cause, calling for a Europe built with the reflections and experience of all its citizens. Her warning was to be wary of shortsighted simplistic discourse because it is people in poverty who always bear the brunt of bad policies.

At the Council of Europe, Advancing rights effectiveness

The International Movement ATD Fourth World is a member of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Holding participatory status at the Council, ATD is entitled to submit collective complaints to the European Committee of Social Rights. Since 2011, ATD has been represented at the Council by a team of two allies and one activist. This team works in the Human Rights Commission where they co-lead the working group “Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. They collaborated with other INGOs engaged overcoming poverty and working to ensure that economic, social and cultural rights will be equally recognized with civil and political rights.



In 2015, the working group “Extreme Poverty and Human Rights” organized a meeting in Strasbourg for the Conference of INGOs. As part of the World Day for Overcoming Poverty (October 17), this meeting was on the theme “Civil society facing child poverty.” It presented a report of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council on “Successful Education for All.” The working group also reviewed ATD’s report, *Challenge 2015: Towards Sustainable Development that Leaves No One Behind*.

The working group started, for the Conference of INGOs, an action supporting the Torino Process (a joint operation of the Council of Europe with the European Union) in relation with the European Social Charter. It aims to accelerate the ratification procedures of the revised Social Charter and its tools (such as collective complaints) by the largest number of Member States. It also aims to raise public awareness of this. The objective is to advance the effectiveness of rights as well as possibilities of legal redress to overcome poverty.

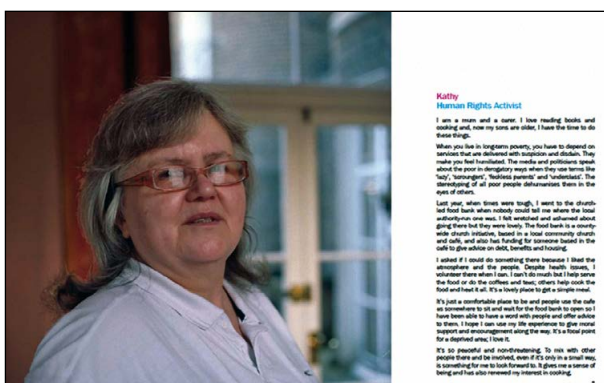
The working group also published a collection of relevant texts and commitments of the Council of Europe aimed at eradicating poverty.

The Roles We Play, recognizing the contribution of people in poverty United Kingdom

Following a government campaign targeting welfare benefit fraud, ATD Fourth World members with experience of poverty designed a project to help the public discover their positive role in society. This project, “The Roles We Play,” shows the courage and solidarity demonstrated by people in poverty. They do not want others to take pity on them;

rather they seek recognition of their equal right to dignity and of the positive but rarely noticed roles they play in society. They are active defenders of human rights.

Thomas recalled all the prejudices against people in poverty: “They are scroungers,” “They do not



Kathy, Human Rights Activist



Eric, Freedom Fighter

want to work,” “They are stealing public money.” Yet Thomas is a caregiver for his son with special needs. He explains: “My son goes to school, so you may wonder why I do not work, but even when he’s in school he sometimes needs my help. I have to go to school to calm him or even help him catch up in a class he could not attend.”

Joel talked about discrimination based on where people live: “When people know you’re from a certain area, they instantly look at you differently.” Yet he hosts a music workshop for children in his neighborhood. “I’ve lived here all my life, so I think I am the right person to be working with them in the local after-school.”

Diane: “Some people are too ill to work, like me. They are not scroungers; they’re too ill to go to work.” She introduced families to Frimhurst Family House³⁶ so that they can stay there for a week during school vacations and get some support: “I see myself as a voice for different people who are struggling.”

In addition to the photo book and collection of testimonies called *The Roles We Play: Recognising*



the Contribution of People in Poverty published in 2014, there are a series of videos, a traveling exhibit — *The Roles We Play, Here and There* — and a dynamic campaign on social networks. (As part of the social media campaign, people sharing on Facebook or Instagram the role we can play in our neighborhood or society by using the #rolesweplay hashtag.) Through this project, ATD Fourth World members created a public campaign, encouraging citizen engagement and activism by people experiencing poverty.

The Roles We Play, Here and There, 2030 Agenda Ireland

The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted at the United Nations under the chairmanship of Kenya and Ireland. During this process, a “Roles We Play” campaign was launched by members of ATD Fourth World–Ireland and 10 other associations (SAOL project, NWICTDP, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Trinity Global Development Society, Irish Development

Education Association, Pathways to Paris, EYD team of Concord). People from all backgrounds were invited to say what role they wanted to take to contribute to one of the seventeen goals. People living in poverty in particular influenced the campaign because they are the first ones to cope with poor health, stress, insecurity, and lack of employment. Their situation gives them a unique expertise to contribute to the goals.



These are excerpts from the campaign:

- **People:** Ending poverty in all its forms, ensuring dignity and equality between people. “Knocking on doors in one’s neighborhood, helping the homeless; be friendly.” Biddy
- **Prosperity:** Ensuring successful and fulfilled lives in harmony with nature. “I try to encourage people to act for themselves and reach their personal goals. Everything is possible for anyone, regardless of age, religion, skin color or social class.” Noleen

- **Peace:** Creating peaceful, fair and inclusive societies. “Trying to help people not to hate each other, trying not to judge, trying to understand their situation.” Teresa
- **Planet:** Protecting natural resources and the climate for future generations. “We need water to survive, we must be aware of that. There is a lot of water wasted. I do not use much water.” Brendan
- **Partnership:** Implementing these objectives on the basis of partnerships. “All this is feasible only if we do it together.” ATD Fourth World–Ireland

Outlawing poverty-based discrimination France, the Netherlands

ATD Fourth World has always opposed discrimination experienced by people living in poverty. Since 2009, it has been advocating for the inclusion into the French Anti-Discrimination Act criteria on social vulnerability.³⁷ Efforts toward this end were made over six years with the support of the French Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination Commission (HALDE), the Defender of Human Rights, the French National Consultative Commission of Human Rights, and more than 40 associations and unions. On June 18, 2015, Yannick Vaugrenard presented to the French Senate a bill proposal acknowledging “vulnerability resulting from one’s economic situation.” It was passed unopposed. Senator Vaugrenard had opened the session by noting that “people in poverty and living with insecurity are victims who suffer a double penalty because poverty is compounded by discrimination in every area: health, housing, employment, training, justice, education, family life, exercise of citizenship, and relationship with public services.”

This victory led the way to a vote at the French National Assembly. Every stakeholder who has worked on this legislative progress remained determined and ensured that this bill passes the National Assembly but also to raise awareness in the general

public about poverty-based discrimination. The new law passed unopposed on June 14, 2016.

In the Netherlands, this issue is also progressing.

At the invitation of the College of Human Rights, ATD Fourth World was invited to explain the need to add to the Dutch Constitution a criterion for social origin-related discrimination.

During a hearing in September 2015, ATD responded by providing extensive documentation including individual testimonies about: the failure of bailiffs, tax services and other agencies to respect the threshold below which repossession is allowed; debts related to basic needs; denial of civil registration; imprisonment and forced labor.

The College of Human Rights has already drawn the government’s attention to the situation of vulnerable groups; however, at the present time it does not recognize complaints of discrimination based on the criterion of “poverty.” It does recognize an ethnicity criterion of discrimination, which has been used to protect people who are economically vulnerable, but only when they are also part of a minority group, such as people from the Traveler community. People of Dutch origin are excluded from this protection. Much work remains to be done to advance the law and change attitudes.

A successful education for all France

Implementation of 2012 goals for citizen involvement in education. In France, ATD Fourth World was an active partner in the “Redesigning Education” consultation launched by the Ministry of Education, based on the work of previous workshops on education, which brought together many education stakeholders (trade unions, parents, researchers ...).

The goal was to support policy proposals and commitments to make schools truly inclusive and allow success for all children.

ATD’s strong involvement in this process was carried out by disadvantaged parents participating in three working groups: “Academic success for all,” “Parents as school partners,” “Trained, recognized and valued

staff.” The proposed national bill on the Redesigning of Schools was scrutinized with particular vigilance, particularly on the topics of: the pedagogy of cooperation; teacher training about knowledge of different social backgrounds and dialogue with parents; practical arrangements to create and facilitate opportunities for parents to play an active role in formal education. Two leaders of ATD–France, Pierre-Yves Madignier and Marie-Aleth Grard, had the opportunity to consult with the minister of education about all these issues.

Simultaneously with this work on a national institutional level, pilot projects were undertaken locally to experiment on the scale of a territory (either throughout an administrative department or in individual school districts). This experimentation included implementing some of the ideas from the “Redesigning Education” consultation, such as teacher training and engagement of all parents with schools. ATD distributed various educational materials, as well as Pascal Percq’s publication, *Which Schools for What Society? Succeeding in School with Families in Poverty*³⁸.

A report by the **French Economic, Social and Environmental Council on “Successful Education for All.”** In September 2014, following the law on redesigning education, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE)’s Section on Education, Communication and Culture examined this issue and produced a report entitled “Successful Education for



All.” This work was carried out in close collaboration with Inspector General Jean-Paul Delahaye, who had been mandated by the minister of education with a responsibility on the topic of “Extreme Poverty and Academic Success.” The report, presented publicly by Marie-Aleth Grard, was based on a collaborative platform presenting numerous successful education experiments, and on research implementing the Merging Knowledge approach. Three touchstones were cited in this report: the importance of school inclusion; schools with a systemic approach to social and educational diversity; and public policies that support schools and properly assess initiatives. The report was adopted unopposed on May 12, 2015.³⁹

Historic recognition of coercive assistance Switzerland

Historic Recognition



“Until 1981, in Switzerland, children and youth were automatically placed — without official sentencing, without their consent or that of their parents, and most of the time with agreement of the church — in homes, institutions, or on farms. This was because they were poor, born out of wedlock, experienced difficult family circumstances, or because they themselves were considered ‘difficult’ or were restless or rebellious. Many of these young people suffered violence that still affects their life today. The children and youth forcibly placed in these situations were exploited in farms and

physically and mentally abused in homes and rehabilitation centers. Some were interned in psychiatric institutions or in prisons without access to any legal remedies to challenge these situations. Forced sterilization measures were also documented, as well as situations where children were forcibly removed from their parents to be given up for adoption.” Press release by the Department of Federal Justice and Police (DFJP) – 4/13/2013

Contributing to writing the history of one's country

In April 2013 in Berne, Switzerland, ten members of ATD-Fourth World, some of them victims of coercive foster care placement themselves, were present at a commemoration ceremony to honour its victims. The coercion determining their treatment as children had a lasting effect throughout their lives. Following the ceremony, a group of fifteen members of ATD started meeting regularly in 2014 and 2015 to talk over their experiences. Throughout their lives, they had wanted to understand the reasons behind the institutional violence that affected them. Now that it was being acknowledged at the national level, they began considering how they could contribute in writing to the history of their country.

Members of ATD also met individually with people to speak about progress made or discouragement encountered when trying to access the records about their treatment, as well as assistance fund intended for people in their situation. Social workers and historians who were actively engaged in documenting situations like theirs encouraged them to be part of this work.

A round table was organized in June 2014 in Treyvaux, with 50 people reflecting on the question: How can we enable people affected yesterday and today by poverty to break the silence about their experiences and contribute to writing a part of history? One participant said, "We were deprived of our childhood,

of education, of our adolescence. We have the right to talk about it today, but one person alone can not break a silence so deeply entrenched."

In November, a People's University on the links between history and present life took place in dialogue with the historian Markus Furrer. He said, "These people came from situations of marginality, poverty. Thus, all the machinery of the social state of that era kicked in. More often than not, it was simply fiscal reasoning. The municipalities did not want to spend too much money."

In March 2015, members of ATD spoke at a conference called "Unacknowledged Responsibility and Violated Rights" at the University of Fribourg. One said, "I would like to tell you the story of my family where children were placed in foster care throughout five generations.[...] If I speak about all this from the past, it's because we must stop this from happening again."

In November, in Berne, eight members of ATD met the Department of Federal Justice and Police's representative on issues related to victims of coercive foster care placement. In a letter summarizing the exchange, he underlined: "You have particularly emphasized that poverty was, for some of those involved, the cause of these measures or forced placements and of the harm suffered. Your hope is that we will be able to draw conclusions about this through scientific studies currently being carried out and that we will measure the importance of the struggle against poverty today."

Best House Rom, a collective complaint Italy



Through the work of the Associazione 21 Luglio, ATD Fourth World got in touch with 72 Roma families housed in a former industrial warehouse, tightly crowded in 12 m² windowless rooms, neon-lit night and day, and without kitchen or cooking equipment. The single sanitary block was undersized. In this warehouse, no visits, even by relatives, were permitted. Guards and video surveillance governed this space where 360 people live, two-thirds of them under the age of 15. Located in an industrial zone, their isolation was complete, with the only organized transportation being to take children to school. This so-called shelter cost over €2 million in 2014.

Alongside Associazione 21 Luglio, ATD refused to accept this situation. Together, they publicly denounced the denial of human rights and the

inhuman and degrading treatment that the center represents. They examined all possible procedures at national and European levels to see justice done. The president of the European Committee of Social Rights visited the center and encouraged the use of a collective complaint procedure. The Council of Europe recommends that NGOs entitled to use this tool do so in order to compel its member states to

act in accordance with the European Social Charter. This collective complaint was prepared; however, it soon became null and void because the prefect, exercising the powers of mayor following that official's resignation, ordered the immediate closure of the center along with the relocation of all the families housed there to a campsite where conditions are similar to those in the center.

Exploration in South-East Europe

ATD Fourth World has a long history in Central and Eastern Europe, one that began well before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Since December 2014, two full-time volunteers residing in Sofia, Bulgaria, have been meeting individuals and groups committed to overcoming extreme poverty in Romania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, and Hungary. They have sought to understand what extreme poverty means today, to learn about solidarity in these countries, and to highlight initiatives allowing people to live with dignity. These initiatives seek the participation of all and cover varied fields such as overcoming poverty, access to culture and education, protection of the environment, or family-related issues.

In each of these places, people have found it important to show the reality of their lives and how they are organizing themselves to support people who have very difficult lives. They spoke about the challenges their countries face, as well as about elements of

strength that can give hope for the future.

They also spoke about some aspects of their lives, which are sometimes very insecure, as well as about what makes them proud. Educators, fully engaged, but also very tired from a daily presence in their institution, were impressive in their commitment. These are institutions where children were placed by their parents in the hope of giving them a better life, or for them to seek a better life.

A new phase is underway to deepen this process of “knowing, understanding, sharing, communicating” based in Bulgaria. A workshop on theme of “Reaching Out to Those Whose Contribution Is Still Missing” is planned in Sofia to bring together all those who have been contacted since January 2015. The goal is to enable committed people to meet, get to know and understand each other. These meetings give participants strength to pursue and develop actions that create peace in neighborhoods, villages, countries.



IV. Perspectives

Leaving no one behind

Throughout this report, we have highlighted significant actions and commitments.

In Bangui, the Central African Republic, with the situation in the country at its worst, Herbert, Cédric, and their friends take risks to continue bringing books to places where children and their families have taken refuge.

In Manila, the Philippines, people living in poverty and government representatives try to understand one another and think together about how to face the challenge of allowing people in the most extreme poverty to be housed safely and with dignity.

In New York, at the United Nations, in the framework of the dialogues for Agenda 2030, Juan-Carlos brought the contribution of those who are confronted each day with injustices and humiliations.

In Berne, Switzerland, Nelly is telling the story of Swiss families whose children were placed in foster care for five successive generations. Alongside other activists, she is campaigning so that extreme poverty will finally no longer separate children and parents.

In a mountainous village in Peru, Silvia and her neighbors participated together in the elaboration of the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, later adopted by the United Nations. In the years to come, we will continue to make these principles known with the handbook, "Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty," a practical tool for their implementation.

Around the world, men and women are thus refusing to accept the violence of extreme poverty. They commit themselves to creating places where it is possible to come together and recognize that we are all part of humankind, creating ties to one another, and acting to put an end to fear, humiliation and the denial of human rights. They call for "no one to be left behind," a condition for building a just world and a sustainable peace. By adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the heads of member states of the United Nations heard this appeal and situated it as the primary ambition for the years ahead. But daily commitments on the ground are essential to really making it happen.

A World-Wide Rallying Cry to Overcome Extreme Poverty and Create Peace

This is why the International Movement ATD Fourth World is launching a wide rallying cry inviting all people to express our determination to overcome extreme poverty and to learn together how to liberate ourselves from the logic of social exclusion. This campaign will culminate on October 17, 2017, marking the thirtieth anniversary of the appeal engraved on the Plaza of Human Rights and Liberties in Paris:

October 17, 1987,

On this day, defenders of human and civil rights from every continent gathered here.

They paid homage to the victims of hunger, ignorance, and violence.

They affirmed their conviction that human misery is not inevitable.

They pledged their solidarity with all people who, throughout the world, strive to eradicate extreme poverty.

"Wherever men and women are condemned to live in poverty, human rights are violated.

To come together to ensure these rights be respected is our solemn duty."

– Fr. Joseph Wresinski

Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, born into poverty, developed a way of thinking and acting that challenges all societies. It allowed a voice to be heard which until then had been ignored: one expressing the thinking and intelligence of people marginalized by extreme poverty. At a moment when the United Nations is calling on everyone's implication in order for the Sustainable Development Goals to succeed, it is vital to give even more resonance to this voice. The time has come to learn with the people who face extreme poverty how to overcome social exclusion and build a sustainable world where no one will be discriminated against or abandoned

Defining non-monetary indicators of extreme poverty

To contribute to this, ATD Fourth World is initiating a participatory research project so that the poorest populations themselves are associated with defining poverty and the indicators which serve to measure it. This project, carried out jointly with Oxford University, and bringing together people living in poverty, grassroots workers and academics from eight countries, aims to be an essential contribution so that the way of measuring advances in projects and policies does not mask the situations of the worst-off, but rather leads to choices that are effective and useful for everyone because they leave no one behind.

For humanitarian and development aid that reinforce solidarity

Through our long-term commitment in different countries with the most abandoned populations, we have witnessed the perverse effects that result from humanitarian and development aid when the projects are run without a true knowledge of the reality of extreme poverty and without the participation of those living in it. That is why, in the follow-up to the first World Humanitarian Summit, we aim to contribute to helping the international community use all means possible so that humanitarian aid reinforces communities rather than dividing them. For this, the goal must be reaching people in the worst situations of poverty and supporting the efforts of those who are already struggling against extreme poverty — before natural catastrophes or conflicts occur. For sixty years, ATD's actions have prioritized the long term at the heart of the urgency of extreme poverty, first in Noisy-le-Grand, France, and then elsewhere in the world, notably in Haiti, New Orleans, Madagascar, and the Central African Republic. Throughout the decades, the people and families whose poverty is the most extreme have taught us that the goal of international aid cannot be only to produce material or infrastructure changes. It must be that human rights progress for all, with everyone's inalienable dignity as the guiding force.

People in poverty have taught us that the world's mass quantitative objectives risk creating violence and leaving some behind; rather we must strive to

reach all the members of a community and above all those who have become invisible due to their poverty. With this approach, all humanitarian or development projects could be able to count on individuals whose explicit mission is to understand which populations are the most menaced by isolation and rejection and which organizations they can confidently rely on. More funding and other support should be directed towards the local actors who best know the situation and context. The decision-making process proceeds at a rhythm that allows populations living in poverty to be associated as full-fledged partners in the elaboration, implementation, and evaluation of projects. Families living in poverty have taught us: projects planned without them turn against them.

For a governance that links the intelligence of everyone

So far, no country in the world has equipped itself with a governance built by relying on the intelligence of everyone, including the most disadvantaged people. All of our countries must learn how to do this. If governments fully assume their responsibilities for ending social exclusion — as called for by the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights — this would open new paths of dialogue as equals between people. It would allow us to re-think international cooperation. Indeed, this is what the SDGs invite us to do by proposing, for the first time ever, a universal agenda.

The international community is now aiming for a world freed from extreme poverty and respectful of the environment. To accomplish this, it is high time to count on the rich experience of people living in persistent poverty. Often, they are alone to assume the situation that is imposed on them, finding ways not to give in to despair and supporting others even poorer than themselves. It is time to let ourselves be guided by the pathways of peace that they dare to create in silence, and by their little-known efforts, courage, and intelligence. We could, in this way, invent a new *tèt ansanm** governance, which is so needed by the world.

Isabelle Pypaert Perrin
Director General

* *Tèt ansanm* is an expression in Haitian Creole meaning that people show solidarity by putting their minds, shoulders, and hearts together. It is used by ATD Fourth World to describe its governance, beginning with people living in the most extreme situations of poverty.

V. Finances and the Board of Directors

As a non-governmental organization, the International Movement ATD Fourth World maintains its accounts as summarized in the tables below. They present income and expenditure incurred in carrying out the activities

of ATD: at its international center in Pierrelaye (France); relating to international advocacy; for the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty; and in part for its international leadership team.

Expenditure and income table of the International Movement ATD Fourth World (in euro)					
Expenditure	2014	2013	Income (in euro)	2014	2013
Real estate, maintenance, and rent	7 189	11 825	Grants from ATD Fourth World Foundation	0	0
Office supplies and IT	910	5 135	Grants from international public and private bodies	165 495	217 457
Books and publications	12 934	1 871	<i>Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the progress of humankind – MDGs, international leadership team, and international advocacy</i>	40 000	70 000
Postage	3 022	3 815	<i>Fondation Philanthropia – Guiding Principles</i>	52 709	0
Telephone, internet, fax	293	497	<i>Oxford Institute – MDGs</i>	0	17 833
Travel expenses (gas, cars, tolls, tickets, visas, insurance)	63 961	87 670	<i>French Development Agency (AFD) – MDGs</i>	70 000	105 000
Food, lodging and equipment for sessions	8 734	45 789	<i>Others (UNESCO, UNICEF, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Council of Europe, CCFD..)</i>	2 786	24 624
Grants to ATD national organizations and others	1 092	1 159	Donations, speaking fees..	10 008	5 255
Membership fees, registration for external conferences	4 539	3 275	Financial products, interest	40 049	33 353
Volunteers' salaries and consultancy fees	102 898	144 572	Exceptional items	0	205
Taxes	1 543	1 199			
Depreciation (IT material)	730	364			
Commitments to be fulfilled from allocated resources	34 677	0			
Banking services and financial charges	1 058	1 298			
Sub-total	243 580	308 469	Sub-total	215 552	256 270
			Financial deficit	28 028	52 200
Total	243 580	308 469	Total	243 580	308 469

Balance sheet of the International Movement ATD Fourth World (in euro)					
I. ASSETS	2014	2013	II. LIABILITIES	2014	2013
Tangible assets	1 437	500	Accumulated surplus	554 223	554 223
Financial assets (guarantees)	168		Reserves	404 062	404 062
Marketable securities	2 337 789	2 650 868	Balance brought forward	217 780	269 980
Cash assets	315 224	18 049	Financial results	- 28 028	- 52 200
Debts to be received	23 298	2 850	Dedicated funds	1 480 859	1 446 183
			Debts to be paid and deferred income	49 020	50 019
Total	2 677 916	2 672 267	Total	2 677 916	2 672 267

Information on ATD Fourth World's Accounts Worldwide

Legal structures have been created by ATD Fourth World in countries where there are people working in accordance with its guiding principles. Following the International Movement ATD Fourth World, as it began in France, these legal structures ensure public, administrative, and financial accountability for ATD's work in each country. There are 18 national ATD Fourth World associations in: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Mauritius, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The ATD Fourth World Foundation provides financial support for all of these. The organization "ATD Quart Monde Terre et Homme de Demain" provides administrative and financial support in every country where ATD Fourth World is present outside of Europe and North America. These countries are: Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Honduras, the Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, and Thailand.

In accordance with the national legislation of each country, the financial statements of each of these

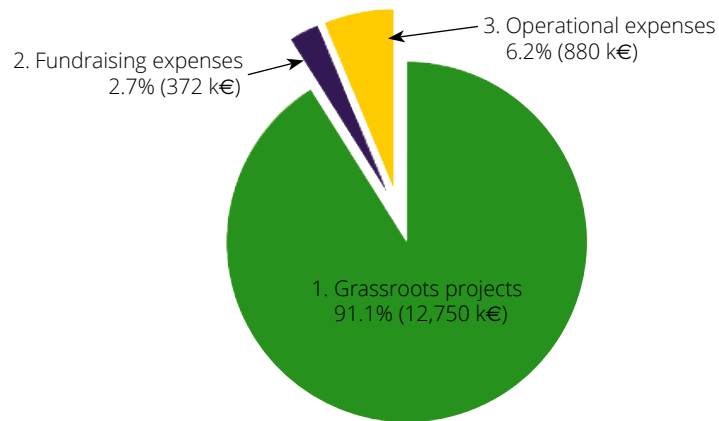
organizations undergo all required scrutiny to show transparency in the accounts: internal controls, independent external audits and, where appropriate, adherence to a body of ethical conduct (AERF⁴⁰ in Belgium, the Committee of the Charter for Trust in Fundraising in France, Charity Commission in the UK, Centraal Bureau Fondsendwerving in the Netherlands, ZEWO⁴¹ in Switzerland).

The accounts of these associations are not consolidated. The estimated total expenditure for these accounts amounts to 18 million euros in 2014 (19 million euros in 2013 and 2012).

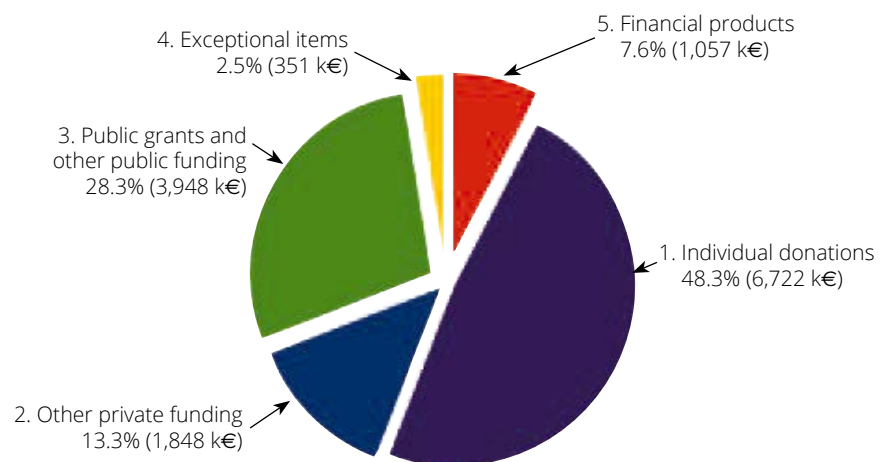
However, a financial amalgamation has been carried out for three quarters of the budget of ATD Fourth World worldwide. It includes all projects in France, Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Indian Ocean, as well as the development of the international center in Pierrelaye, France. The figures in this amalgamation, presented in the pie charts below, have been certified by an independent auditor. The complete amalgamation, "L'essentiel de 2014," is available online (in French only)⁴².

Financial amalgamation including all projects in France, Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and at the International Center (Pierrelaye, France)

Expenditure breakdown in 2014



Distribution of resources in 2014



International Movement ATD Fourth World's Board of Directors

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Ms. Diana Skelton, USA
Mr. Jean Toussaint, France

Notes

1. See page 39 of the report: International Movement ATD Fourth World, *Extreme Poverty Is Violence—Breaking the Silence—Searching for Peace*, Paris, Editions Quart Monde, 2013, p. 92.
2. See page 39, op.cit.
3. See page 39, op.cit.
4. See page 44, op.cit.
5. See page 51, op.cit.
6. See page 51, op.cit.
7. See page 40, op.cit.
8. See page 56, op.cit.
9. Download the English version here: http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2015/12/Dignity_in_the_Face_of_Extreme_Poverty-Final.pdf
10. Final draft of the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights, submitted by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, A/HRC/21/39, 18 July 2012, paragraph 14, page. 6.
11. Download the handbook here: <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/international-relations/guiding-principles-on-extreme-poverty-and-human-rights/>
12. International Movement ATD Fourth World, *Challenge 2015: Towards Sustainable Development that Leaves No One Behind*, <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/challenge-20153588/>
13. Such as the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning; representatives of the UNDP; UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; Ambassadors of Benin, France, Peru and the Philippines; the International Organization of la Francophonie; the International Trade Union Confederation; the Friedrich Ebert Foundation; Social Watch; Participate; and the social policy centers of the University of Massachusetts and the University of Oxford
14. International Movement ATD Fourth World, *Challenge 2015: Towards Sustainable Development that Leaves No One Behind*, Page 16
15. Page 86
16. Page 16
17. Page 38
18. Page 78
19. Page 17
20. <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/challenge-20153588/>
21. <http://www.atdireland.ie/wp/croke21/>
22. Through UN Resolution 47/196, adopted on 22 December 1992, UN the General Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. In the observance of the day, however, it is more commonly known and celebrated as World Day for Overcoming Poverty
23. To know more: <http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/permanent-forum-on-extreme-poverty-in-the-world>
24. To know more: <http://overcomingpoverty.org/rubrique/26>
25. To know more: <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/what-we-do/our-priorities/>
26. *Tèt ansanm* is an expression in Haitian Creole meaning that people show solidarity by putting their minds, shoulders, and hearts together. It is used by ATD Fourth World to describe how its governance begins with people living in the most extreme situations of poverty.
27. La Cour aux cent métiers (*Courtyard of a Hundred Trades*) is the main activity place for ATD's local team in Burkina Faso.
28. Réunion Island, part of France, is located between the nations of Madagascar and Mauritius.
29. CESE: French Economic, Social and Environmental Council, where ATD is represented
30. To know more: <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/category/north-america/canada/>
31. To know more: <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/videos-ending-prejudice-poverty/>
32. To know more: <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/researching-equitable-health-care/>
33. To know more: http://www.atdquartmonde.ca/wp-content/uploads/UPQM_Evaluation.pdf (in French only)
34. Geneviève de Gaulle Anthonioz, *The Secret of Hope*, simplified Chinese version, 黄山书社, Huangshan Publishing House, Beijing, China. 150 p.
35. To know more: <http://tinyurl.com/j4w5ukv> ; <http://viviendadignatodos.blogspot.be/> ; <https://atdcuartomundo.es/publicaciones/>
36. A residential center run by ATD
37. To know more: <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/france-bans-discrimination-grounds-social-conditions/> ; <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/propositions/pion2885.asp>
38. This book, not available in English, is published in French as *Quelle école pour quelle société? Réussir l'école avec les familles en précarité*.
39. To read the full report (in French): <https://www.atd-quartmonde.fr/livreblanc/>
40. Association for ethical fundraising (AERF)
41. ZEWO foundation (Zentralstelle für Wohlfahrtsunternehmen) is the Swiss specialized service for charitable organizations.
42. Download the report here (in French): <https://www.atd-quartmonde.fr/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Comptes-2014.pdf>