

International Report 2021

To think, act and advocate with the people in poverty



Leave no one behind • Reaching the furthest behind first

The International Movement ATD fourth world

The International Movement ATD Fourth World (All Together in Dignity) is an international non-governmental organisation with no political or religious affiliation. Its primary aim is to

eradicate extreme poverty and exclusion around the world, by associating the persons who are forced to live in those conditions.

ATD Fourth World was founded in 1957 by Joseph Wresinski and families who lived in a camp for homeless people in the Paris region. Together, they launched a movement that gives priority to the people living in poverty and brings together **Fourth World activists** with first-hand experience of poverty, members of an **international volunteer corps** who work permanently in solidarity with them, and a wide range of **friends and supporters** who take action together to foster lasting change in society.

Present, in 2021, **in thirty-three countries on five continents**, ATD Fourth World runs **projects that promote family life as well as social, cultural, and professional development**, with limited financial resources, but a tremendous human commitment. ATD Fourth World is also involved with hundreds of persons and partner associations in the world.

Extreme poverty still condemns millions of persons today to live in conditions so unacceptable that they violate human dignity. ATD Fourth World knows that people living in extreme poverty are the first to reject it and that they have unique knowledge and experience that can break down the barriers separating people.

ATD Fourth World has developed programmes to involve and truly take into account people living in poverty in each of its actions. To do this, ATD Fourth World has developed:

- **Fourth World People's Universities**, where adults living in extreme poverty and citizens who choose to stand beside them engage in dialogue and mutual learning.

- **It also uses the Merging of Knowledge**® approach, a dynamic that creates the conditions for linking knowledge from the life experience of people in poverty with the knowledge of academics and practitioners.

These two practices help to build new knowledge and design new actions, by valuing and taking into consideration the unique knowledge lodged in each person's experience.

ATD Fourth World also advocates with institutions and public authorities to ensure that all dimensions of poverty are taken into account in every policy decision. It works to have people living in extreme poverty recognised as partners with the right to participate in national and international institutions. For example, it contributed to the adoption by the United Nations in 2012 of the Guiding Principles "*Extreme poverty and Human Rights*", and to its pledge in 2015 to "*Leave no one behind*" as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ATD Fourth World declared October 17 the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, recognised by the United Nations since 1992.

In all its undertakings, ATD Fourth World aims to promote change and build a society based on human dignity and access to human rights for all.

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*"Where men are condemned to live in misery,
human rights are violated.
Uniting to enforce them is a sacred duty."*
Joseph Wresinski

International Movement ATD Fourth World



Contents

Message of Donald Lee, President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World	5
I. Advocacy with international organisations	6
UN New York and Geneva	7
• Commission for Social Development	7
• High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.	7
• UNFCCC	9
• Committee on the Rights of the Child	10
• Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	10
• UNESCO	11
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	12
Europe	13
• European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights	13
• Council of Europe	13
• European Youth Forum	14
OECD	15
II. At the heart of the International Centre	16
• Joseph Wresinski Memory and Research Centre	16
• Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty	18
• International Communications Team	19
• International Training Team	21
• Taporì	22
III. Actions on all continents	24
• Africa	24
• Indian Ocean	27
• North America	28
• Latin America and the Caribbean	30
• Asia	33
• Europe	35
IV. Perspectives of the International Leadership Team	39
V. The 2021 accounts of the International Movement ATD Fourth World	42
Board of Directors	44

Message of the President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World



Donald Lee

Recent studies have confirmed that the Covid-19 pandemic is in essence a developing country pandemic¹. Yet, because of the inequitable global distribution of vaccines, less than 6 per cent of people living in poorer countries have been vaccinated. In effect, the poorest are being forced to bear the brunt of the pain and suffering associated with the health, economic, and social consequences of the pandemic.

The weak global resolve to address the Covid-19 pandemic largely reflects the absence of true global solidarity for united action to address the **social, economic, and environmental issues that have burdened the global community for decades**. Global poverty rates are once again increasing, especially in the aftermath of the global pandemic. Despite the potentially existential threat of climate change, countries are still bickering over the action they will undertake to limit the rise in global temperature. **Democratic institutions and human rights are under increasing attack** in many countries around the world, and the threat of a widening global conflict has grown in recent months in the wake of the unfolding crisis in Ukraine.

In the face of these challenges and uncertainties, the achievement of social and environmental justice for the poorest can seem an impossible task. Yet, we must not lose hope, but instead we must seek to learn important lessons from those to whom life has afforded little security or certainty.

The very poor families connected with the International Movement may live in extremely difficult conditions, but they demonstrate unparalleled resilience, determination, and ingenuity in fighting poverty. Working together with the teams of the Movement who support them, **these poor families have invented and developed multiple strategies and actions to effectively resist poverty**. We have witnessed how **these acts of resistance, together with resilience, have brought about needed social and economic change within their communities**.

For example, families in Haiti organised a gathering on October 17 that successfully resisted the prevailing violence in their community. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, members of the Movement demonstrated formidable solidarity in the face of the Nyiragongo eruption. In the Philippines, young people undertook the responsibility of keeping street libraries open so that the children could continue to learn during the pandemic. In several Latin American countries, book loans and other activities were organised to compensate for the closing of schools. In Belgium and Ireland, activists are uniting to raise awareness on discrimination due to poverty through innovative collective activities.

Guiding the Movement's support to the poorest people in these collective approaches is the principle of **Thinking, Acting, and Advocating** with them, which is also the theme of this report.

Thinking together is essential to learning and sharing knowledge from lived experience, and for creating the foundation for solidarity and informed action. The research methodology of the Merging of Knowledge is being increasingly used and recognised in university research; it is being used in France at the CNAM and CNRS, as well as by a new African research network. Findings from the Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty based on this research methodology have been disseminated throughout the world.

Engaging in advocacy together with the poorest is effective because it represents and advances the voice, visibility, participation, knowledge, and lived experience of poor families. Last year, this important advocacy work has grown as more activists and groups have strengthened their capacities for personal and collective expression that have allowed them to speak out effectively at more national and international events.

It is evident that when we think, act, and advocate together we can build and sustain the solidarity, confidence, knowledge, and innovative collective action needed to overcome the multiple challenges we now face as a global community.

I. Advocacy with international organisations



Speakers at the United Nations International Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty event

TO THINK, ACT AND ADVOCATE WITH THE PEOPLE IN POVERTY

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has held general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1991 and consultative status with UNICEF and UNESCO since 1970. It has permanent delegations to the European Union and the Council of Europe. It is recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and has representations at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Its engagement with international institutions and people experiencing poverty has led to the recognition that **extreme poverty is both the cause and consequence of human rights violations.**

ATD Fourth World has been actively involved in lobbying for the Sustainable Development Goals to explicitly include the requirements to *"leave no one behind"* and *"reach those furthest behind first"*.

International advocacy has evolved in 2021 within the specific context of the Covid-19 pandemic. **This evolution was enabled by the openness of international institutions to remote participation through the digitalisation of events,** as well as the strengthening of **activists' skills in public speaking and greater maturity in conducting collective reflections around the world.**

The **engagement in advocacy of local groups** and the **contributions of activists** were particularly fruitful, for example, during the participatory dialogues with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and participation in the Commission on Social Development. These processes allowed ATD Fourth World activists from several regions of the world to share their experiences with both pride and relevance.

UN New York and Geneva

Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development is one of the commissions of the Economic and Social Council, one of the six major bodies of the United Nations. It addresses economic, social, cultural, educational, public health, and sustainable development issues and maintains close links with NGOs.

The 59th session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development in February 2021 adopted the theme: "Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all". ATD Fourth World presented a written statement and organised a virtual side event titled **"Behind the screen: grassroots experiences in accessing social services and education in a digital world"**.

Activists with a lived experience of poverty spoke to academics and Member States' representatives about the difficulties of distance learning and the inhumane treatment some families in the United Kingdom were subjected to, as family court hearings were held online for health reasons.

"How can they make decisions during lockdown about where a child lives? Some parents did not even know who was on the video with a screen so small they could not see everyone. In one hearing, the internet kept cutting out and the judge did not know who was on the call! How can this be fair?" (Tammy Mayes, United Kingdom activist)

"If people in poverty are not consulted by the State, broadening digitalisation will widen the human rights gap." (Christiaan van Veen, Director of the Digital Welfare State and Human Rights Project at the Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU School of Law).

Behind the Screen: Grassroots Experiences
Accessing Social Services and Education in a Digital World

- Side Event to the 59th United Nations Commission for Social Development -

Traduction simultanée en français

A Panel Discussion Featuring:

- Tammy Mayes
Parent activist with ATD Fourth World in the UK
- Christiaan van Veen
Director of the Digital Welfare State and Human Rights Project at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law
- Joongil Shin
Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
- Esther Rodriguez
Activist from the Apache Nation in New Mexico, ATD Fourth World USA

Moderator: Virginia Eubanks
Associate Professor of Political Science at SUNY
Author of "Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor"

ATD FOURTH WORLD



High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the main international platform for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It meets annually under the patronage of the Economic and Social Council.



In July, ATD Fourth World participated in this Forum on the theme: "Poverty eradication in the context of a global pandemic and climate change: obstacles and recommendations for achieving the 2030 Agenda". A position paper was drafted ahead of the meeting.

Addressing the tensions between extreme poverty and environmental conservation: grassroots voices and solutions

- Side-Event to the United Nations High Level Political Forum 2021 -

Thursday 8 July 2021, 1PM-2:15PM (EST), on Zoom



Seela John Sainyeye
Coordinator of Women
Empowerment and Gender Equality
at the Pilot Light Development
Organization in Arusha, Tanzania



Leidiane Quilombola
Educator, leader of the Quilombola
Movement of Maranhão MOQUIBOM
and of the collective of Warrior
Women in Resistance, Nazaré, Brazil



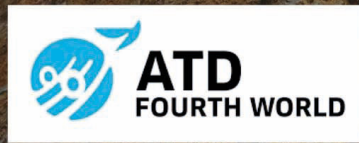
David Smith
Chief Economist and Regional
Co-ordinator - Africa. UNDP-
UNEP Poverty-Environment
Action for the SDGs (PEA),
UNEP Africa Office



Yves Lador
representative of Earthjustice
to the United Nations
in Geneva.



Moderator:
Donald Lee
President of the International
Movement ATD Fourth World



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

side event



ENDING POVERTY BY 2030 TRANSFORMATIONS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE SDG 1

13 July 2021 | 1:00-2:30 pm EDT



**H.E. Ambassador Tijani
Muhammad-Bande**
Permanent Representative of
Nigeria and Chair of the Alliance
for Poverty Eradication



Shameran Abed
Senior Director of
Monitoring and
Graduation Programs at
BRAC



Violet Shivute
Founder and Coordinator
of Shiyen Community
Health Workers



Sofia Sprechmann
Secretary General of
CARE International



Maryann Buxton
Activist and
Coordinator, ATD
Fourth World USA



Robert Walker
Professor Emeritus,
University of Oxford and
Rajawong Normal University



Adriana Dinu
BRP Deputy Director,
UNEP



ultra-poor
graduation initiative



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



ATD Fourth World organised a **side event on the challenges of poverty eradication and environmental preservation**. The examples from Brazil and Tanzania showed that poor communities facing threats to their land are also threatened in their identity and culture, yet they keep acting to protect their environment. A dialogue was initiated between professionals in the fields of social and environmental justice and human rights, as well as with international policy makers.

Maryann Broxton, American activist and coordinator of the research on the multidimensional aspects of poverty, participated with Robert Walker, Emeritus Professor at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention at

the University of Oxford, in an **event** entitled “**Ending poverty by 2030: transformations needed to achieve MDG1**”. Organised jointly by the NGO BRAC and the United Nations Development Programme, this event focused on the transformations required to finding sustainable solutions to poverty eradication.

She said: “We need to share the space. And share the power. We need to adopt a methodology based on inclusion and equity. [...] If the knowledge, insights, and inputs of people with direct experience of poverty are not included at all stages, we will not be able to end poverty in all its forms.”

UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change brings together 197 States Parties. They meet annually at the Conference of Parties (COPs) to monitor the implementation of the UNFCCC objectives.



Cécile Caubet and Aria Ribieras at the COP26, Glasgow, United Kingdom



Pierre Klein, Herman Van Breen, Cécile Caudet and Aria Ribieras at the COP26, Glasgow, United Kingdom

COP26, the United Nations conference on climate change, was held in Glasgow (UK) in early November. Ahead of the conference, a position paper widely circulated by ATD Fourth World stressed that climate action must include poverty eradication. Throughout the summit, four of its members represented ATD Fourth World as observing NGO.



Alongside COP26, during the worldwide conversations on climate justice organised by the International Leadership Team of ATD Fourth World, a Fourth World activist said:

“The environmental issue scares me a lot. I have the feeling that we will end up even poorer. The more we do about climate change [without taking the people living in poverty into consideration], the more poverty we will cause. We must give everyone a life in dignity. As I see it our struggle is to bring about a vision of worldwide balance.”
(Alain, Swiss activist)

Social and environmental justice will only become a reality if climate action contributes to eliminating poverty.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is attached to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Committee works for the promotion, monitoring, and protection of human rights under the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Every two years, the Committee on the Rights of the Child holds a **Day of General Discussion**. This year, ATD Fourth World was actively involved in this Day and its preparation.

At the international level, the Movement contributed with the **submission of a statement on the rights of the child in the event of placement into care**. In addition,

young people in the United Kingdom who had been placed into care themselves because of their families' situation of poverty shared their thoughts and contributed to a public consultation to inform and guide the discussions during the meeting. These contributions were noted and referred to several times in the background document of the Day of General Discussion.



www.inkthinking.com

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

The United Nations **Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights** is mandated by the Human Rights Council to promote and protect the rights of people living in extreme poverty.

ATD Fourth World and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Olivier De Schutter, have worked closely together to organise **participatory dialogues on the persistence of poverty** with activists in Latin America, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



*Olivier De Schutter,
Special Rapporteur on extreme
poverty and human rights*

These dialogues informed the report titled *“The persistence of poverty: how real equality can break the vicious cycles”*, presented in October to the United Nations General Assembly. A public version of this report explicitly incorporates the inputs gained from the participatory dialogues.

In Belgium, the film *Ne dis pas d'où tu viens* (Do not say where you come from) on the two days of dialogue on discrimination between Fourth World activists and the

Special Rapporteur was produced in June and is available in three languages.

ATD Fourth World also supported Olivier De Schutter's report for the creation of a Global Fund for Social Protection, stressing that its effectiveness will depend on national implementation guided by the principles of dignity, equal treatment, inclusion, solidarity, and participation.

UNESCO

L'UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.



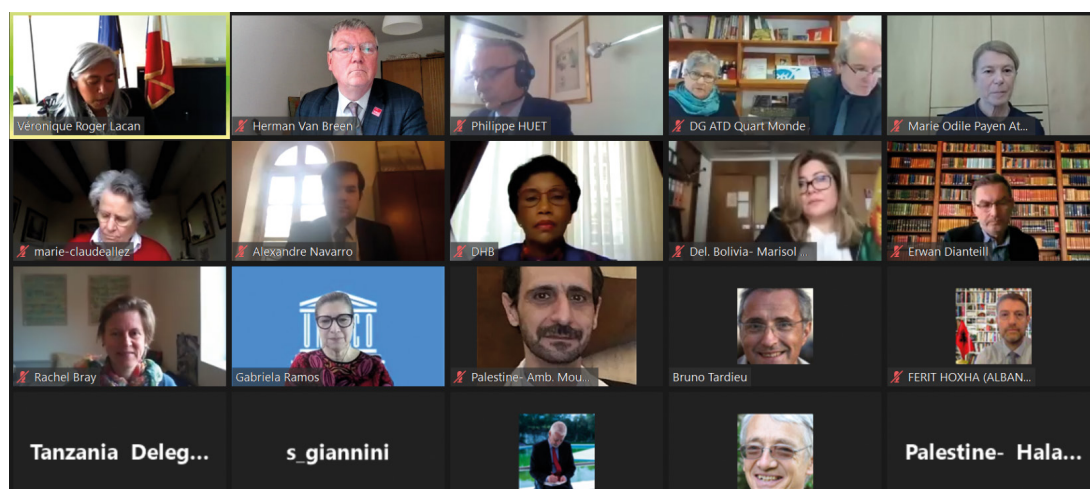
In March, the French ambassador to UNESCO, Véronique Roger-Lacan, and several leading figures of the Organisation met with the International Leadership Team of ATD Fourth World. The representative of ATD Fourth World to UNESCO presented a **project to inscribe the archives of the Joseph Wresinski Memory and Research Centre in the Memory of the World Register**. The initiative was very favorably received.

Following this exchange, Véronique Roger-Lacan, Yves Saint Geours, President of the French National Commission for UNESCO, and other ambassadors to UNESCO visited the Joseph Wresinski Centre in May and spoke out in favour of the project to ensure recognition and protection of its archives.

“The majority of humanity lives in extreme poverty. Inscribing the archives of ATD Fourth World will give a voice to this part of humanity.”
(Mounir Anastas, ambassador and permanent representative of Palestine to UNESCO)

In November, ATD Fourth World submitted a complete dossier on the inscription of its archives in the Memory of the World Register.

ATD Fourth World also contributed to a **report** titled **“Solidarity of NGOs Facing the Pandemic”**, which aimed to highlight the realities on the ground, to report on the exceptional solidarity of civil society, and to propose a new vision for the post-Covid-19 era.



Speakers at the presentation of the project for the inscription of the CJW's archives in the Memory of the World Register

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 OCTOBER 2021

WORLD DAY FOR OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



**Building Forward Together:
Ending Persistent Poverty,
Respecting all People and our Planet**



Dessin Hélène Perdreau

www.overcomingpoverty.org

overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org

Poster for the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty
on October 17

*Building forward together:
ending persistent poverty, respecting
all people and our planet*

This theme was chosen following a broad consultation with members of the Forum to Overcome Extreme Poverty. **ATD Fourth World organised a webinar as part of the official event.** It was attended by 400 people and viewed by over a thousand people in the week following the event. Again, activists engaged in preparing the event via video contributions. From the Central African Republic, the United States, Brazil, and France, they bore witness to the link between extreme poverty and climate change. In the face of floods, drought, and widespread pollution, they expressed the need to reconnect with nature and a healthy environment, but also to create respectful bonds with others, so that each person can be an opportunity for others.

Everyone stressed the need to **fight poverty and climate change simultaneously** as they are interdependent consequences of human activity throughout the world.

The Director General of ATD Fourth World and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights emphasised how vital it is to involve the people living in poverty in the reflections on eradicating poverty and meeting the challenges of climate change.

"When are we going to learn from those who suffer the most? When are we going to build a world that is truly fair for everybody, including future generations?" (Isabelle Pypaert-Perrin)

"There is no need to choose between green transition and social justice." (Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights)

Dr. Kategekwa from the Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concluded the event by reminding everyone that common solutions must be designed by stakeholders, from the grassroots to the institutional level, namely in direct link with those who experience the challenges of poverty and climate change most acutely.



**INTERNATIONAL
DAY for the
ERADICATION
of POVERTY**
17 OCTOBER



**Building Forward Together:
Ending Persistent Poverty,
Respecting all People and our Planet**



ATD
FOURTH WORLD

NGO COMMITTEE
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRES
DES NATIONS UNIES
A NEW YORK



United Nations
Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Europe

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

The **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights** provides independent advice to the European institutions and Member States on fundamental rights, including the fight against discrimination.



ATD Fourth World is working to have poverty recognised in legislations as one of the grounds for discrimination to better combat it.

In October, as part of the **Fundamental Rights Forum** of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, a workshop took place during which Claire Hédon, the Defender of Rights in France, gave examples of complaints issued by people discriminated against on the grounds of economic vulnerability, such as children excluded from school canteens because they live in a shanty town or the refusal to give medical appointments to certain people under a health scheme specifically designed for the people living in poverty. ATD Fourth World campaigned strongly in France and in 2016 succeeded in having poverty recognised as a ground for discrimination and enshrining this principle in law.

ATD Fourth World and other NGOs are leading a similar campaign in Ireland. In June 2021, a delegation from ATD Fourth World met with the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland, Roderic O'Gorman. Subsequently, the government committed to undertaking a revision of the legislation.

At the European Union level, ATD Fourth World is lobbying for the European Agency for Fundamental Rights to be mandated to conduct a study on the reality of discrimination on the grounds of socio-economic status in all Member States, to demonstrate the extent of this form of discrimination.

Council of Europe

The **Council of Europe** sets standards for the protection of human rights, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, and the strengthening of democracy, to facilitate cooperation between its forty-six member states.



On the initiative of the new Committee on Action for Social Rights of the Conference of INGOs, a joint celebration of the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17)** and the **European Anti-trafficking Day (October 18)** brought together victims of poverty and violence with senior figures from the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. This event took place in front of the Commemorative Stone on the forecourt of the Palace of Europe on the theme *“Precariousness or slavery is not a job! Decent and freely undertaken work for ALL, is it possible?”*.



During the seminar that followed, panellists from seven European countries presented a variety of initiatives. These included opening centres to combat human trafficking, strengthening training, supporting women prisoners to find work at the end of their prison term, as well as promoting the “Zero long-term unemployment zones” experiment – a partnership between the State and local authorities aiming at creating jobs with and for every long-term unemployed worker in several regions of France.

Replica of the Trocadero slab at the Council of Europe, Symbol of the rejection of extreme poverty, Strasbourg, France

European Youth Forum

The European Youth Forum is a platform of youth organisations in Europe. The platform represents the voices of young people in Europe.

Our representative to the European Youth Forum (EYF) has strengthened links with other member organisations in 2021, notably in preparation of a European youth meeting organised by ATD Fourth World in the summer of 2022. Participating in a conference entitled “**Employment, society and youth: what role for the European Union?**”, she promoted the vision of ATD Fourth World together with that of other national and European youth coalitions. The political programme of the EYF, which outlines the organisation's fundamental positions, was amended and voted on – with the vigilance of ATD Fourth World to ensure that young people experiencing poverty are fully included and respected.



Lou Borderie, ATD Fourth World representative at the EYF, surrounded by other association representatives



Statement by Maëlys Garcia, representative of ATD Fourth World at the EYF

OECD

The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** is an international economic consultative organisation dedicated to promoting public policies fostering prosperity and equal opportunities. It brings together thirty-eight countries, principally high-income ones.



Ana Lucia, Brazilian activist, from a video made on the occasion of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty



At a one-day **workshop** organised by the OECD and the Red Cross Foundation on October 12, ATD Fourth World made a presentation entitled “**Enhancing the inclusivity of the institutions that are directly interacting with people in poverty**”. This presentation exposed the limits of so-called “inclusive” institutions and gave compelling examples of inclusion where the people in poverty are actors of change: Zero long-term unemployment zones, INSEE's recognition of the multidimensional nature of poverty.

On November 30, ATD Fourth World also addressed the first meeting of the **Community of Practice on Poverty and Inequality**, recently set up by the OECD. The video of a Brazilian activist made on October 17 was shown.

II. At the heart of the International Centre

JOSEPH WRESINSKI MEMORY AND RESEARCH CENTRE “Making history”



Visit of a UNESCO delegation to the JWC in the framework of the Memory of the World Register project, Baillet-en-France, France

Bringing the people in poverty into history, building a common world

People who live in poverty often cause embarrassment and fear. Stigmatised and mistreated, they remain silent or their “speech is subjugated”. Their silence is interpreted as a defiance or an absence of thought. This “void” is filled by narratives imposed by society but in which the people concerned do not recognise themselves. This is the vicious circle of social exclusion. **To break this exclusion, the Joseph Wresinski Memory and Research Centre (JWC) collects, classifies, preserves, and circulates archives** that are the result of a different kind of relationship with them, aimed at mutual knowledge, shared culture, and peace.

In the camp for homeless people of Noisy-le-Grand, where the ATD Fourth World was founded in the 1950s, families recognised in others their experiences of life, courage, and injustice. They came out of shame. This “reversal” enabled them to meet people from other backgrounds. They dared to confide their story. They were able to come together and speak out.

Since then, many more have shared parts of their story and have provided the JWC with evidence of what they have experienced, their suffering, but also acts of humanity that the world does not see. Without a recognised history, a population cannot build its future. Keeping track and

making history: the JWC pursues these two goals, which are inherent to ATD Fourth World. All the archives of the Movement are gathered in Baillet-en-France.

The three teams of archives, documentation, and research have made progress in their numerous projects: upgrading the archive collection management system, valuing these collections, but also reflecting and having an impact on the academic world, international bodies, public opinion, and the people in poverty themselves, thanks in particular to the co-financing of the AFD (Agence française de développement) and the French ministries of culture and solidarity.

Chantal Vallée, a Fourth World activist from Lyon, hands over documents relating the experience of the theatre group, Baillet-en-France, France



These projects include:

- The development of **the SIDOC platform that will make all JWC public documents available in three languages**, with direct access and via a university platform common to all documentation centres and university libraries in France (SUDOC). <https://atd-cjw.centredoc.org/>
- Acquiring and developing a **new archival document management information system (SIA)**, in compliance with international standards and best practices.
- Encouraged by the French National Commission for UNESCO and the Burkina Faso National Commission for UNESCO, as well as by numerous ambassadors from other countries who came to visit the Centre, **the JWC has applied for the inscription of its archives in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register**.
- The **Seminar on social philosophy**, bringing together philosophers, activists, and practitioners, continued its research on the three themes of **injustice** related to **knowledge, resistance, and law**. Texts drawn from the JWC archives enriched the problematisation of each theme and allowed the groups of co-researchers to pool their individual writings to produce a text from the perspective of each knowledge type.
- The **CNAM-CNRS collaborative space** is a place of dialogue between ATD Fourth World and two renowned institutions for fundamental and applied research in France – the CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research) and the CNAM (National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts) – dedicated to making the methodology of Merging of Knowledge known. The JWC facilitated the meetings to promote the practice and recognition of this scientific methodology, as well as to train academics. Three groups – ATD Fourth World activists, professional practitioners, and university sociologists, philosophers, and historians – were trained together in using this research methodology. The synthesis event took place in September at the MSH (House of Human Sciences, Paris).
- The JWC allowed **Axelle Brodriez-Dolino**, associate historian and doctor of contemporary history, to consult the archives for more than six years to author her thesis to obtain the accreditation to direct research. She **wrote the history of ATD Fourth World from its origins**, from her point of view as a researcher. Her 1500-page thesis, entitled “A ‘mixed economy of welfare’: the fight against poverty-precarity in France from the Third Republic to the present” was defended on December 13, 2021, at the EHESS (School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences).

She wrote: “I would like to thank ATD Fourth World, as a historical collective, for the trust shown to me and for the extraordinary richness of the archives that were opened to me, which have at the same time significantly deepened and changed my understanding of (extreme) poverty.”



Seminar on social philosophy, Pierrelaye, France

The JWC has experienced a daily flow of requests, visits, and events to which it has responded. Individuals and families have come to consult the archives in search of a picture, a missing relative, or a document written by themselves or by a relative. The archives contributed to the construction of a common memory, a shared history.

The JWC provided documentary archives for the restoration project of the Notre-Dame-des-Sans-Logis chapel in Noisy-le-Grand. It received visits from UNESCO ambassadors, participated in the centennial anniversary of Alwine de Vos Van Steenwijk, president of the International Movement ATD Fourth World from 1974 to 2002, and continues to welcome master's degree and doctoral students.

2021: a year in which the JWC worked for a “re-cognition” of humanity in the wake of the will of its founder, Joseph Wresinski: “Every valid word has the right to be written, the right to be a message for other men, especially when it stems from the most disadvantaged. To have access to writing is to enter history... I have always wanted to write the history of the people in poverty, day by day.”



Archive repository at the JWC, Baillet-en-France, France

FORUM ON OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY

The **Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty** is a **network of associations and individuals committed** in their country to populations in situations of extreme poverty, from whom they learn about resistance, courage, and solidarity. Based on their experiences, the Forum writes a “Letter to friends around the world”, which allows to create and maintain links between partners. The letter is sent to over 4000 correspondents in more than 150 countries.

This network constitutes a **force for refusing extreme poverty in the world and for building societies starting from the people living in poverty and with them, based on mutual learning**. It expresses itself every year on October 17, through events celebrated on all continents to commemorate the World Day for Overcoming Extreme.

The members of the Forum contribute to the choice of the theme of the International Day by the United Nations, which gives them major influence (in 2021, 125 contributions from 40 countries).

The Forum team circulated the report on the **Participatory Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty** conducted by ATD Fourth World and the University of Oxford to over 100 of its members. It later organised a cycle of four webinars, in French, English and Spanish, which allowed for direct exchanges between some 40 correspondents from around the world, including Morocco, Mauritania, Lebanon, Algeria, Palestine, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Canada, Haiti, Colombia, Argentina, and Bolivia.

The participants in these sessions showed their enthusiasm to meet, even if virtually, and learn from one another. They reflected together on the following question: “In our respective actions to overcome poverty, how does this research inspire us?” They stressed the importance of making this research more widely known, insofar as it defines poverty as an experience of resistance, but also of suffering that leads to the dispossession of the power to act. In addition to material deprivation, institutional and social abuse as well as unrecognised contributions are clearly identified.

“This report can help move from a discourse that blames the victim of structural and systemic violence to one that places her at the centre of our concerns; from a discourse that blames to one that shares responsibility.” (Gideon)

Co-researchers, some with lived experience of poverty, spoke at the end of each webinar.

“It is up to you to keep talking about it, to keep moving things forward, so that our contribution, no matter how small, actually makes a difference.” (Abdallah)

Participants also talked about their realities. Correspondents from Haiti, affected by the situation in their country, recalled that what unites the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty is the search for a world of peace where everyone can live in dignity.



Hélène Perdureau

In bright blue, the countries in which the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty has correspondents



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

OVERCOMING POVERTY THROUGH COMMUNICATION

For ATD Fourth World, **communicating** is not only about disseminating information on activities and achievements to gain recognition, but also about creating connections between people. Communication is **an integral part of the fight against poverty**, based on decades of experience. In every country, extreme poverty comes with shame, humiliation, and isolation. However, discovering that others have endured or are indeed enduring similar marginalisation breaks the power of shame and helps people to move forward in life.

“I used to keep everything to myself but then I dared to speak out and say that there are things I disagree with. I could really be who I am and talk about my ideas and opinions.” (Andrea Saffore, activist from Switzerland).

Sharing stories

The International Communications Team (ICT) is not only about disseminating information on activities and achievements to gain recognition, but also about creating connections between people. Communication is an integral part of the fight against poverty, based on decades of experience. In every country, extreme poverty comes with shame, humiliation, and isolation. However, discovering that others have endured or are indeed enduring similar marginalisation breaks the power of shame and helps people to move forward in life.

The issue of climate justice was addressed several times because disasters of natural origin and climate change disproportionately affect people living in poverty. Communications on the COP26 showed the shameful exclusion of the people living in poverty from this crucial global gathering.

Building on ATD’s Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty, the theme of **discrimination** appeared frequently in the coverages of 2021. It was namely referred to in United Nations webinars, in national advocacy work in Ireland, or in a Belgian film featuring activists describing discrimination on socioeconomic grounds.

Being heard is transformative

The communications team ensures that **what activists say** when they address the United Nations or when they are quoted in a public report **is widely echoed within the Movement**. The team disseminates personal reflections, such as that of a Canadian activist:

“Wanting to break free is the first step. The path is often difficult, but following it encourages collective freedom and values our efforts. Very often, the way out of poverty seems impossible because the obstacles are so numerous. We must not feel guilty, if it is difficult, it is not our fault.” (Frédéric Mailhot-Houde, Canadian activist)



Guillermo Diaz

While our communications work helped people address their own challenges, it also **helped society do its part**. ATD Fourth World’s website highlighted first-hand experiences and what can be learned from them, and conveyed proposals of citizen commitments and elements of advocacy to a wider audience.

Supporting local and national communications

The ICT supported members of ATD Fourth World in their **communication efforts at the local and national levels** by organising meetings to share strategies, tools, and ideas. In 2021, two virtual meetings were held in January

and May, focusing on communications during the pandemic and mobilizing people living in poverty in Latin America during that difficult period. These events brought together 70 people from 17 countries worldwide.

www.atd-quartmonde.org

The ICT circulated newsletters in **English, French, and Spanish**, covering projects in 25 countries as well as advocacy endeavours at national, European, and international levels. Website articles were also published in **Bulgarian, Portuguese, Kiswahili, Dutch, and Arabic**. Countries without their own website published material for national and regional audiences.

The website includes publications from the International Leadership Team, material from the Taporì children's network, and archives from the Joseph Wresinski Centre with an international scope.

Social Media and videos

Through the international **Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram** accounts of ATD Fourth World, the ICT promoted each of its **115 website articles** as well as many local, national, and international events, including United Nations webinars in which people in poverty spoke about their lives.

International advocacy teams also benefitted from these accounts for their own communications, such as the launch of an extensive media strategy for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The ICT developed its **video** production capacity, investing in equipment and training needed for higher quality

work. Portraits of members of the volunteer corps from France and Italy explaining their commitment to the work of ATD Fourth World were produced and published on the international website to support recruitment efforts.

One of them said: "Part of what I have valued most over my years as a member of the volunteer corps is belonging to a community with a shared purpose. [...] We agree that the priority is to seek out people in the most challenging situations of poverty in order to think with them about how to leave no one behind." (Diana Skelton)

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING TEAM



Training is being developed in each country and region of the world. However, the International Training team is particularly involved in the exchange of international experiences, the training of intercultural skills, and the search for common denominators regarding the principles of action and commitment of ATD Fourth World. This work also helps to emphasise what is unique to each person.

Once a year, **“RENFORT” sessions**, for the **meeting** (RENcontre in French) and training (FORMATION) of people, as well as the **strengthening** (RENFORcemenT) **of capacities**, are organised for the members of the volunteer corps who have been involved for two to five years.

One of these RENFORT sessions brought together 12 members of the volunteer corps from Peru, the United States, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Senegal, France, Belgium, and Spain. It started with a week-long virtual session in November 2021 and will continue in 2022.

In addition, **on-demand training** sessions allow members of the volunteer corps to reflect on their actions, find points of reference, and strengthen their skills in specific areas.

In this context, 28 members of ATD Fourth World, including allies, members of the volunteer corps, and activists, reflected on one of the three following topics: “our actions with people living on streets”, “our actions

in favour of income-generating activities”, and “our Fourth World People’s Universities”. Participants from Madagascar, Bolivia, Brazil, Mauritius, Peru, Burkina Faso, the Philippines, the Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Bulgaria, and Belgium interacted in person and by videoconference. Two short documents were produced, which can be easily shared with those who did not participate: one on the Fourth World People’s Universities and one on income-generating activities.

Finally, a six-month **strengthened training course** was organised at the International Centre for five members of the volunteer corps so that they could better understand the **fundamental principles of ATD Fourth World**, acquire **tools to reflect on its actions**, and **master the dynamics of encounters**, such as those **related to the People’s Universities and the Merging of Knowledge approach**. The outcomes of this training were shared with the teams in Canada and Asia, which led to the organisation of a training-meeting between young members of the volunteer corps from Canada and Asia to take place in 2022.

The International Training team is also responsible for the **training of the members of the volunteer corps who set off to join a team in the Global South** as international solidarity volunteers. The division has participated in a joint project with other associations – within the CLONG Volontariat (Comité de liaison des ONG Volontariat) – to create a common training reference framework covering preparation for departure and outlining good practices.

TAPORI

WE HAVE IDEAS!

Tapori is the children's branch of ATD Fourth World. It brings together children from different backgrounds in friendship, who learn from each other because their daily lives are very different. They are connected by the **"Tapori Letter"**, which gives news from children around the world and tells true stories of courage and friendship. Above all, the letter tells **what children are doing to resist poverty and exclusion.** This letter is written in French, English, German and Spanish, is published four times a year and is sent to about 1500 correspondents in **24** countries.

Yves Petit



In 2021, the pandemic once again highlighted the **sensitivity of children linked to Tapori and their ability to react** with specific actions to change the reality around them. They have continued to express themselves with a particular focus on the preservation of their environment, especially water. They shared their difficulties and the daily actions they undertake to take care of both people and the planet.

"Everywhere we want people to make better use of water from springs, clouds, the sea, rivers, lakes, ponds, when we use water for bathing, cooking." (Kaivon, Reunion Island)

"To find water, I must wake up every morning at 6 am. I take the 10-liter can and my older brothers take the 20-liter cans." (Child from Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo)

"We share and help each other. We must respect the environment to have rain." (Child from Madagascar)

"When it rains, we can collect water to water our flowers and vegetables. We can use the water we have already used to water the plants." (Child from Mauritius)

François Jomini





Inspired by the Taporì Letters, the children crafted “Taporì Express” boats, an activity designed to reach out to other children, through which they expressed their dreams, messages, and ideas for **solidarity, sharing, friendship, and the protection of nature**. Through their mobilisation and with the help of facilitators, **they took action for their community**. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, they met with the people in charge of the standpipes during the pandemic to ask them to lower the price of drinking water so that it would again be accessible to all. In Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the children are concerned about the vegetation and have replanted trees in the neighbourhood of Taabtenga. In France, in the Ile-de-France region, they cleaned up their neighbourhood so that everyone would feel better. In Mauritius, in the Case Noyale neighbourhood, the children of the Taporì group tend a community garden.

“The hummingbird does its part. That means that it does not do much, but if we all do something, it is a lot. Like the plastic continent, if no one threw away waste, it would not exist.” (Jairo, France)

In October 2021 a **new Taporì campaign** was launched to show the importance of family ties and community in the values transmitted to grow up well. The Taporì International campaign consists of six letters in which the children are invited to perform an individual activity first, and then to create a common achievement with others. The campaign is supported by virtual meetings between facilitators during which they share their knowledge and practices.



III. Actions on all continents

AFRICA

ATD Fourth World is present in ten African countries thanks to teams of permanent staff and groups of friends (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo) or through the presence of friends or members of the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty.

Over the years, ATD Fourth World has developed different forms of action with the most poverty-stricken, in particular with young Africans who have been trained in the areas of solidarity and facilitation. Throughout the continent, they have created connections with local associations to promote **access to culture and knowledge, knowledge of rights, civic engagement, and public expression, or by engaging with young people living on the streets.**

Street libraries, Festivals of Learning, the Day of the African Child, Tapori groups, and the solidarity of supportive families are the flagship activities of local groups, carried out over the long term, bearing witness to an impressive dynamic at work every day. And this, despite the fact that the continent is plagued by major climate events or disasters of natural origin, which the teams must also deal with. In addition, in response to the health crisis, income-generating activities have been reactivated or started in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burkina Faso.

Only a few of these actions are reported here.

The year 2021 was marked **by several advocacy activities conducted by people with experience of poverty** who have been trained in public speaking. They are always at the heart of the defence of their own rights. Joseph Wresinski explained it this way:

“To know is first to be aware of being a person, it is to be able to give meaning to what we experience and to be able to express it [...] to be able to share it with others.”

Inviting the people living in poverty to share their concerns means giving value and meaning to the experiences of each person and giving them the legitimacy to defend their rights.

Several teams have contributed to the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, notably on issue regarding the persistence of poverty, dignity, and the non-take-up of social rights.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Since May 22, 2021, when the Nyiragongo **volcano erupted**, the lives of the people of Goma have been disrupted. Fear of earthquakes and infrastructure collapse, as well as power cuts and water shortages, have forced many families to move to neighbouring towns or cross Lake Kivu to Bukavu.

There, young members of ATD Fourth World were active at the port and in cantonment sites. They helped to **register people** and find places to host them. They also helped children to find their families, whom they had lost sight of in the rush. In this way, the members of ATD Fourth World participated in a **spontaneous surge of solidarity**, *“experiencing a power to act and a common strength”*.

Young members of ATD Fourth World mobilise with refugees following the volcanic eruption, Bukavu, DRC



The young members sustained their efforts in the cantonment sites by offering **activities and games to the children** and installing a **street library**, converting the sites into spaces of peace and happiness appreciated by all.

Some families have since been able to return to Goma, even though part of the city was destroyed. The young members of ATD Fourth World want to remain hopeful: *“Goma lives, Goma is being built. From the lava that decimated us, **we will make a more beautiful city than before.**”*

Central African Republic

The *“Conference on the participation of the people in poverty”* took place on May 8, 2021, at the University of Bangui, and was **facilitated by two activists and two academics**. Based on the results of the Participatory Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty, the discussions allowed students, professionals, journalists, and community activists to become more aware of the importance of ensuring that everyone is respected for their thoughts and ideas, and that **the people living in poverty have a voice that counts and is necessary to drive the entire community forward**.

The *“Regional meeting of facilitators committed to children”* took place from July 8 to July 12 in Bangui. Coming from Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the facilitators met for four days to learn from each other's experiences.

Senegal

In Dakar, children and adults met with great enthusiasm on June 16 on the **Day of the African Child** around the theme “Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: **we want all children to have equal opportunities and a colourful tomorrow for all.**” The children were particularly active; they presented a theatre play-forum on the importance of the right to education and access to school for all children.

In another part of the city, families shared their difficulties and aspirations **in a youth and children's advocacy piece**. The children wrote down their dreams: *“I would like to be [...] a teacher. Nothing motivates me more than the desire to educate others, especially children and girls.”* (Socé Diagne). Representatives of local authorities, moved by the courage of the children and their parents, pledged to take responsibility.

This year, ATD Fourth World joined forces with the **CONAFE**, the National Coalition of Child Rights Associations and NGOs, **to contribute to the advocacy and promotion of the rights of the child in the country.**

The resistance to environmental and climate-related degradation was highlighted by a video made by the Central African team for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at the United Nations on October 17.

The aim was to gain a better understanding of how poverty separates children from their parents, as well as of the reality of young people facing life on the streets. They exchanged **ideas to invite children to participate in the protection of their rights**. The facilitators, *most of whom* had faced the same difficulties in their lives as children, found their commitment particularly resonant. **They sustain the fight against indifference and the work to sublimate the beauty that children contribute to society.** Gouba Ousseini, a facilitator from Burkina Faso, readily says: *“These children are my friends”* even though they are very much rejected.

This meeting was also an opportunity to visit families who have been living in tents since the floods of October 2019 and continue to fight for their right to decent and sustainable housing.



Day of the African Child, Dakar, Senegal

The African network of researchers

This network was created in Nairobi, Kenya in April 2021 in partnership with the Tangaza University College during a seminar on the **Merging of Knowledge methodology** entitled "People Living in Extreme Poverty as Co-researchers for Change in the Narrative of Research in Africa". It aimed to discover the roots and pertinence of this methodology and how it can influence policy decisions in the region. A second training seminar, held

in August in Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania), was devoted to learning the practical and ethical aspects of this kind of research with the help of the co-researchers who had done the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty Research in Tanzania. These two seminars have led the group to elaborate a **charter of the African network of researchers** friends of ATD Fourth World.

Madagascar



INDIAN OCEAN

In **Mauritius, Madagascar, and Reunion**, the teams of ATD Fourth World organised street libraries, conducted Festivals of Learning, and created spaces for expression such as forums, Fourth World People's Universities, family days, or the celebration of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty.

Mauritius

In Mauritius, members of ATD Fourth World carried out training and advocacy work with a coalition of partners and the vice-presidency of the Republic. This work was based on the **international Participatory Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty**, conducted by ATD Fourth World in partnership with the University of Oxford, using the methodology of the Merging of Knowledge. This

research consisted in establishing the hidden dimensions of poverty and outlining how they intersect with each other. This year, members of ATD Fourth World and their partners in Mauritius built on the content of the research and adapted it to the Mauritian context. Together, they published a report that was submitted to the highest level of the executive.

Madagascar

In Madagascar, collective actions target all the inhabitants of the two neighbourhoods where ATD Fourth World is active (Antohomadinika and Andramiarana): early childhood programme, street libraries, Tapor group, People's Universities, civil registration campaign, a savings programme for schooling, meetings on school success, and other events.

Collective actions reach a large number of families and efforts focus on providing social support to families facing particularly difficult situations in neighbourhoods where almost all the inhabitants live in extreme poverty. Collective actions aim to provide support.

This support, designed to last between one and three years, was provided, in 2021, to **24 particularly vulnerable families** living in Andramiarana, one of the two districts of the capital where ATD Fourth World has been working for the past 30 years. The goal was to promote the development of these families and to enable their members to support each other and grow together. The actions carried out have aimed at preserving and strengthening family ties and supporting families in their struggle to have their rights and essential aspirations

respected. They have contributed to the emancipation of families, by empowering their members to make significant changes in their own lives and in the lives of their families, **thus gradually regaining the power to shape their own future**.

This support required regular visits to create a relationship of trust, to get to know each other, understand each other, discover strengths, projects, and desires, and help them emerge if necessary. The extreme poverty that weighs on the families deprives them of ambition. Very often, they are convinced that their lives cannot change, nor that of their children. The first step is therefore to restore their ability to formulate projects, to make them emerge and spring forth.

These visits covered the entire range of rights of the family and its members (decent housing, education, care, labour, culture) so that the persons concerned could formulate their aspirations and ambitions.

In addition to these regular visits, specific support was offered, particularly in the areas of **health care** and **individualised support for children**, teenagers and young people towards **schooling** and **professional training**, as well as in the **creation of income-generating activities** or **access to employment** via the MMM project (Miasa Mianatra Miaraka - Working and Learning Together), which offers support in vocational training and personal development to women.



Craftswoman of the MMM project (Working and Learning Together) making an earthen stove, Madagascar

NORTH AMERICA

ATD Fourth World's presence in North America is characterised by actions conducted with people living in poverty in two complementary settings. These actions are carried out at the **local level** in New York, Boston, New Mexico, New Orleans, Appalachia, and Quebec, as well as at the **international level**, with a permanent representation of ATD Fourth World to the United Nations in New York carrying the mission to influence international policies that have an impact on communities living in extreme poverty. This advocacy work is conducted with the active participation of these communities.

The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on people and actions. Even though many members of ATD Fourth World have learned to use communication tools remotely, the depth of exchanges has decreased. Collective actions such as the People's Universities, the street libraries, and the co-training towards the Merging of Knowledge have been weakened, but the "Think Tank" dialogues have advanced.

"Being present" is the vocation of the members of the volunteer corps when they move into a new neighbourhood, to get to know its inhabitants and support existing projects before imagining new ones with them. Dierdre Mauss, a member of the volunteer corps in New Orleans, writes about the strength of the relationships between the members of ATD Fourth World in that city: *"there are glimmers of hope in every life and in every community when people take the time to be present for others."* Being present is ultimately a way to leave no one behind, to think and act with the people living in poverty.

United States



Story Garden on Wheels, New Mexico, USA

Actions have been adapted in the face of the pandemic, such as in New Mexico, the **Story Garden on Wheels**. With this initiative, the team would travel two to three hours out of town **to meet families in rural areas**, rich in knowledge and values, but lacking resources and digital connections. Through books (in English and local languages), artistic

activities, tablet computers, and educational toys, the Story Garden on Wheels connected the knowledge and curiosity of rural families with the rest of the world.

In New York City, the **Fourth World People's University** of spring 2021 was held remotely. Its topic was the **digital divide**. This topic had previously been discussed in a side event to the 59th session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development in February, titled "Behind the screen: experiences of access to social services and education in a digital world". Activists, academics, and representatives of Member States participated. Together, more than a year and a half after the outbreak of the pandemic, they acknowledged the critical importance of digital access to stay connected and ensure continuity of access to rights, including education. One of the participants said: *"Online schooling is a disaster for families, teachers, students, and parents, and even for the elderly. To follow my online college classes, I did not know how to do it. The workload was not the problem, the problem was learning how to use the technology."*

In 2021, a **new working group on Racism and Poverty** was launched. It brings together members of ATD Fourth World from New Mexico, Virginia, Louisiana, and New York, among others. The main objective of the group is to learn how to talk together about racism in the United States, as well as to explore and understand the links between racism and poverty. To achieve this, it has been deemed necessary to create and practice facilitation techniques that allow for

fruitful and healthy discussions between people with different life experiences and cultures. The group met virtually 11 times over the course of the year, always seeking questions and ideas to help understand the intersection of racism and poverty in the United States.

One of the participants, Rosetta Savanna, explains: *“This group enlightened me. We sat there, changing our perspectives on each other, and at each moment, we understood each other even better.”*

Canada



Intervention group for municipal election candidates, Quebec, Canada

Training sessions and international and national advocacy actions were conducted throughout the year. In May, a **Merging of Knowledge** workshop was organised in Montreal, **ahead of the Movin'on Summit** in June, which is a global summit on sustainable mobility that brings together political, academic, and business actors to address major mobility challenges. People with experience of poverty and public transport stakeholders confronted their respective difficulties. Participants formulated the obstacles they experience. For the members of ATD Fourth World, **“mobility is an essential right, without which no other right can be exercised (such as access to health, work, education, etc.)”**. In contrast, the professionals shared the challenges they face in measuring the lack of use of transportation and in hearing the expectations of those who are neither shareholders nor users. This exchange was captured in a summary that was circulated during the Summit.

A Fourth World activist in Canada shared his reflection titled “Love inseparable from Justice”, recalling that the wealth of human beings is found in sharing and solidarity and stressing that **poverty acts as a hindrance to freedom**.

“No one should ever be kept in a state of exclusion,” he says. Therefore, “creating the conditions for all peoples to escape poverty should not be considered a utopia, but a primary and visceral commitment for all actors involved. This should be the prime objective of any self-respecting government that wants to serve the population.” (Frédéric Mailhot-Houde)

As if to echo this, in the context of the **municipal election campaign, the members of ATD Fourth World challenged the candidates** by highlighting six major issues that are essential to reducing **social, economic, environmental, and territorial inequality**. Activists presented these issues (housing, green spaces, recreation and culture, transportation and mobility, communications and citizen participation, and the digital divide) in video clips in which they exposed the existing inequalities and presented pathways to making the city more inclusive. Getting involved at the local level where the government is closest to the people and submitting ideas to elected officials are citizen initiatives for a fairer society for all.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has been present in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1979. It currently leads and supports actions in eight countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru. These actions aim to improve **access to quality education for all**, develop an **economy that respects people and the planet**, and promote **culture for all** as well as **active participation in the life and knowledge construction of societies**. This year, the activists were further trained and empowered to act within the Movement and their communities.

Haiti

For 40 years, the team of ATD Fourth World in Haiti has been organising **actions in the areas of health, education, and early childhood**: “Babies Welcome” (*Bébés bienvenus*), the pre-school “Seeds of Hope” (*Graines d’espoir*), street libraries for children, a computer workshop for youth, and knowledge campaigns for all, among others.

However, due to a **period of severe violence in the country**, these **activities have been adapted or suspended**. Many families have had to move to protect themselves. Witnessing the tensions and above all the courage of the families, the team wanted the Fourth World house to remain open so that everyone could find refuge and rest.

“Welcoming, talking, playing with the children, offering something to drink and trying to reduce the level of stress: together we took courage.”

The nutritional programme was maintained thanks to the solidarity of the inhabitants, and the milk distributions were sustained. For example, a young mother and her sister took the risk of crossing a dangerous neighbourhood several times so that children in the neighbourhood could receive milk. The future of the children is a great concern. Families are getting organised to resist the violence they face.

Solidarity among the active members of ATD Fourth World remains strong. They perform acts of solidarity that show great courage in the face of violence, and they all support each other in the desire to be together like the Haitian friends *“permanently seeking and creating bonds”*.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Honduras



The schools were closed, sometimes for two whole years. The children, accompanied by ATD Fourth World teams, had to reinvent ways of learning from home.



Book lending to replace street libraries

In Latin America, schools were closed for almost two years due to the pandemic. The children living in poverty were often left behind and lost their connection to schooling because they could not attend classes online, on television, or on the radio.

In an effort to adapt to the health restrictions, the teams of **ATD Fourth World transformed their activities**. For example, street libraries were converted into **book lending projects** that reached up to a hundred children in each location.

The teams noticed that the children had lost the habit and confidence to learn. They were therefore present with the families and devised different ways for the children to reconnect with learning. The children were invited to gather in **homework and reading clubs** at the House of Friendship in Bolivia and **members of ATD Fourth World visited the homes of families** in Guatemala and Peru.

During visits to families in Mexico, members of the volunteer corps found that children could no longer remember the names of their classmates or even know which hand to write with, following the closure of schools for nearly two years. The members of the volunteer corps renewed the children's thirst for learning by designing individualised activities based on their wishes and dreams so that they could **regain their self-confidence and find the courage to return to school upon reopening**.

As a result of these actions, **advocacy work was undertaken with UNICEF and UNESCO** to share the methodology adopted. This work highlights that all children, even the most poverty-stricken, can learn when provided with the adequate conditions and that it is essential that all children continue to have access to education so that no one is left behind.

Training in Merging of Knowledge

A **training course on the Merging of Knowledge approach** was launched in Latin America to promote the knowledge built with people living in poverty. Latin America can look back on a rich tradition of participatory research-action and popular education. ATD Fourth World designed a training course jointly with the *Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana* (UAM) of Mexico City, which offers a **university degree** to the 28 participants in this joint training course: people experiencing poverty, professionals, and academics, from five countries in the region – Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru – as well as Spain.

Contribution to participatory dialogues

Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, **participated in an exchange with Latin American activists on the persistence of poverty, in preparation for his report to the United Nations General Assembly.**

Beforehand, the activists had reflected on the notions of **discrimination, suffering and fear, institutional abuse**, and **recognition**. Eighteen activists from Bolivia, Guatemala and Peru then participated in the dialogue with the Special Rapporteur.

In her introduction, an activist from Peru said: *“The experience of poverty in childhood has a huge impact on your future life, and even more so if the history of poverty repeats itself from generation to generation.”*

The training covers the three fundamental elements of the Merging of Knowledge approach: the transition **from individual to collective knowledge, knowledge dialogue**, and **knowledge co-production**.

The course had started before the pandemic in Guatemala, but the pedagogical committee had to adapt to the situation. The course was therefore delivered online, one weekend per month, throughout 2021. **Training in digital tools** was provided until a face-to-face modality could be resumed.

Another said: *“Discrimination also causes silence, you cannot say what you think, what you feel [...]. Poverty makes you believe that you cannot change your situation, [...] that the whole world is stomping on you.”*

They concluded that: *“To break the chains of the persistence of poverty, it is necessary to recognise and value the daily efforts of people who experience it, because this struggle is very often made invisible.”*

Olivier De Schutter responded: *“What is striking is that all the attractive solutions we come up with to fight poverty and social exclusion do not work because we do not think about the very concrete obstacles that people experiencing poverty face [...], which is why to me, the question of participation is absolutely essential.”*

ASIA

ATD Fourth World is present in the **Philippines** and **Thailand** and collaborates with NGOs and correspondents in several other Asian countries.

The long periods of confinement caused by the pandemic have slowed down activities. Direct access to many of the poorest communities has been very difficult. However, the teams of ATD Fourth World have sustained bonds against all odds.

Philippines

The members of the volunteer corps of ATD Fourth World fully relied on the members based in local communities to sustain links with the poorest families. Young people have also played a central role, for example, in running street libraries for the children in their neighbourhoods.

The **Sulong savings programme** allows families connected to the team to pool a portion of their savings each week, no matter how much they contribute. This mechanism has helped members in times of illness, for the education of their children, or when daily incomes were suddenly interrupted during periods of confinement.

The programme was especially helpful to the community living in Manila North Cemetery during the pandemic. As families were forbidden to work, they struggled to survive on handouts alone. With the entrance to the cemetery being closed to outsiders, the programme had to adapt so that families could continue to withdraw funds from their pool. Sulong membership grew from 80 members in 2021 year to 98 in 2022.

Following the success of this project, the team decided to **expand it to the Paco community**. Two community members from Manila North Cemetery went to Paco to present the savings programme. They shared their experiences and explained the roles and responsibilities of the permanent members of the volunteer corps, the collectors, and the members who deposit their savings. Since then, the Sulong programme has gathered 30 members in this area of Manila.

After a year marked by long periods of confinement, the **Christmas workshops** were an opportunity to be together again. They took place throughout



Young people run the street library for children in their neighbourhood, Philippines



Christmas workshop, Philippines

November and December and were particularly important as they enabled everyone to get together, catch their breath, and regain their energy. The community members of ATD Fourth World used their creativity and imagination to craft Christmas decorations. They then travelled to different communities to craft some more with other parents and children.

Of the resettled families in Calauan, Balagtas, Norzagaray, Manila North Cemetery, Manila Paco, and Manila Pandacan, more than 250 adults and young people, as

ATD Fourth World is a member of the technical working group on the relocation of families in the Manila North Cemetery, Philippines



well as 200 children, participated in these activities and crafted almost 700 items of decoration with enthusiasm and concentration. These workshops were an opportunity for everyone to meet or get together, share, and support each other at the community level.

ATD Fourth World Philippines also became a member of the technical working group on the relocation of families in the Manila North Cemetery. This technical group is composed of civil society organisations (IDEALS, KKFI, JOLLY, HOMES, FDUP), two organisations involving people living in the Manila North Cemetery

(Samantaganor and NHOA), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). The long-term presence of ATD Fourth World in Manila North Cemetery has allowed the team to **develop meaningful partnerships with individuals and civil society organisations.**

Some of these organisations collected donations for the community kitchen set up by the community members of ATD Fourth World during periods of lockdown, to encourage community members in their trainings as well as to provide families with access to information regarding vaccinations and testing.

Bangladesh



The delegates at the Tapori workshop, Bangladesh

The NGO Mati is a partner of ATD Fourth World and has participated in the **international Participatory Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty**. In March 2021, a first circulation of the results of this research highlighted the nine dimensions elucidated. Fifteen participants, including nine artists, took part in the inception workshop to address dissemination. Their creations were compiled in a book that will be used as a means of dissemination.

From June to November, more than 150 people (teachers, social workers, tourism professionals, academics, and students) participated in four dissemination sessions in which they experimented with the Merging of Knowledge approach. Some of these sessions were organised in partnership with two of the main universities in the north of the country.



Children from the Rohingya refugee camp participating in one of the activities of the Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty, Bangladesh

India

The **World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty** was celebrated with a **webinar** on the theme: "Suffering of the poorest following natural disasters related to climate change, duty and contribution of science" in which several members of ATD Fourth World from different

countries intervened. This session was a follow-up to a thesis conducted by a student at the University of KL-Vijayawada Campus, coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo where he is a member of ATD Fourth World.

EUROPE

The International Movement ATD Fourth World was born in France and is now active in **twelve European countries**. It carries out **projects in each of these countries**, but also cross-cutting actions, such as **gatherings** of young people and adults, **training sessions**, **artistic and cultural activities**, and more recently, **international advocacy work**.

ATD Fourth World connects the local, national, and European levels by creating spaces for collaboration and exchange between the most excluded people and decision-makers in different Member States and European institutions.

Ireland

“Even when the curtains are closed, there is always a slit that lets the light in. We wanted to be that lifeline in times of need.” (Paul Uzel, Fourth World activist)

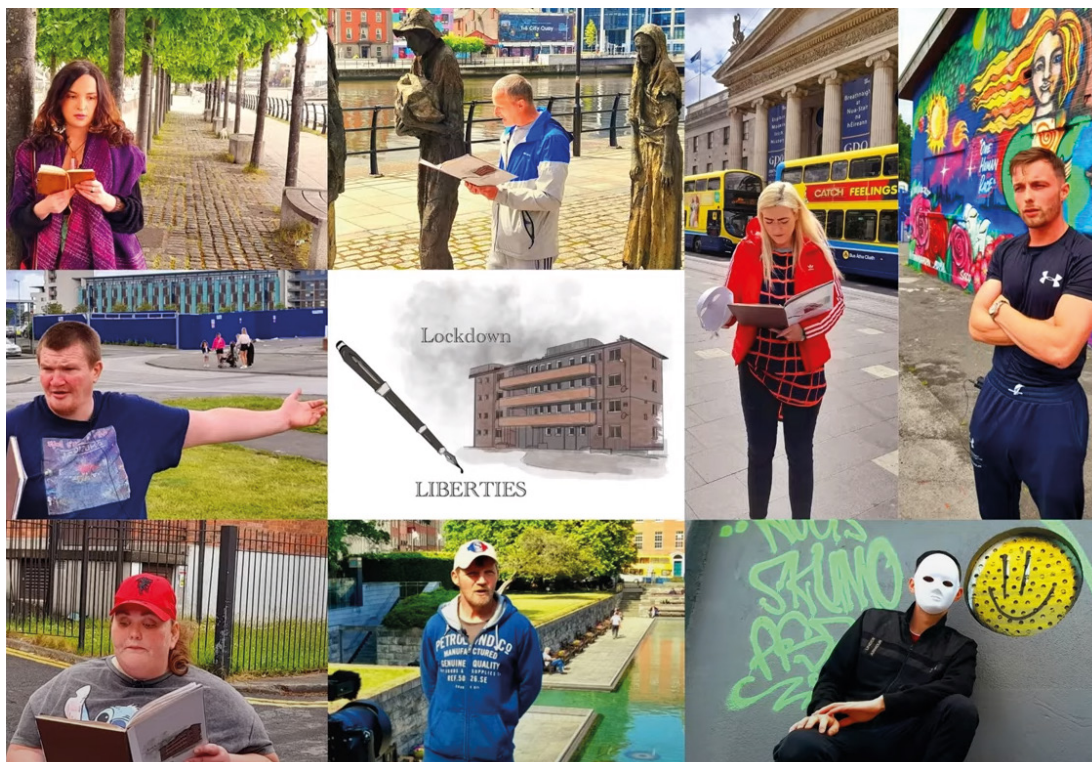
This was the challenge taken up by ATD Fourth World in Ireland during the lockdown. The team created a **virtual circle for sharing poems and writings** under the title *Lockdown Liberties*, allowing everyone to express themselves on the themes of poverty, addiction, love, family, etc.

“The mutual support that has grown between the writers is very strong. We encourage each other to write and share powerful poems,” Paul continues.

This initiative was echoed in **online workshops facilitated** in April and August 2021 by ATD Fourth World **with activists and social work students** from Trinity College Dublin, on the perception of poverty and the practices of

social workers. The exchanges around the poems were very rich: *“This meeting was an experience I will not soon forget. We had a perfect example of a person turned into an expert on his or her own life through experience alone. It helped me think about the type of social worker I want to become.”* (a student)

ATD Fourth World is part of a coalition working to **introduce a criterion of discrimination based on socio-economic grounds into legislation** to make this practice illegal. On June 16, this group met with the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland, Roderic O’Gorman. Andrew, a Fourth World activist, spoke about his experiences of such discrimination. As a result of this meeting, the Minister committed to advancing the revision of equality legislation to introduce *“protections against discrimination based on socioeconomic grounds and gender identity”*.



Poland

For many years, members of ATD Fourth World have been involved with children by organising street libraries in various Polish cities and rural areas. After a break of several years, a **street library was revived in Warsaw** with

Youth action

Germany-France cross-national meetings: From October 21 to 25, trainees from the Hamburg Carpentry Guild in Germany went to Dole, France, to meet with young people from ATD Fourth World. They visited a mechanical training centre and discovered the Jura region. Together, they took part in language and creative workshops. They also participated in a **round of exchanges on the theme of work**, from which they concluded that it is important to have a job that one enjoys, a friendly work environment, and a salary that allows one to live decently. Beyond the content of their reflections, the coming together of different cultures left a mark on the participants: *“This weekend we were in solidarity, we were able to exchange ideas about what*

the aim of meeting children and their families, creating a positive attitude towards learning, and promoting equal access to educational and cultural activities.

we wanted. I can understand where I belong in Europe. We were out in nature and happy; money and normal life did not matter.”

Spain-France cross-national meetings: At the end of October, a group of five young people from ATD Fourth World in Noisy-le-Grand, France, went to Madrid where they met up with young people they had already met in the Paris region. They enthusiastically participated in **reflections on discrimination**, visits, and leisure activities chosen by the group of Madrid teenagers. This exchange deepened the bonds of friendship between these young people from different countries and cultures who share many interests and daily struggles.

European Citizens’ Dialogues

The renewed European Citizens’ Dialogues provide a **space for people with experience of poverty to express themselves, to build their voice and their thinking, and to engage in dialogue with the rest of society.**

The first European meeting took place between August 20 and 24 at the International Centre of ATD Fourth World (France) and gathered delegations of activists, members of the volunteer corps, and allies from Germany, Bulgaria,

Ireland, Italy, and the Netherlands. Participants shared their real-life experiences and experimented with the Citizens’ Dialogues at the national and European levels. This dynamic was designed to promote and reinforce these national initiatives with a view to working on European advocacy with the representatives of the European institutions in the years to come.

Participatory dialogues on the persistence of poverty

On April 1st, members of ATD Fourth World in Luxembourg took part in a **participatory dialogue initiated by Olivier De Schutter**, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, on the **persistence of poverty**, inspired by the **Merging of Knowledge** approach. The activists insisted on the stigmatisation of the most vulnerable children. They also stressed the importance of investing in early childhood, hiring mediators in schools and involving people experiencing poverty at the local level. This dialogue was the first of a series of discussions taking place in Belgium, Latin America, and Africa to contribute to the report of the Special Rapporteur to the United Nations General Assembly.

“Their experience and expertise are essential sources of knowledge to combat global poverty,”
Olivier De Schutter wrote in the report that followed this series of participatory dialogues.

On June 11, a delegation of members of ATD Fourth World Belgium participated in another participatory dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in Namur. They highlighted the role that schools can play in the fight against persistent poverty. Activists identified several avenues that can promote the integration and success of children living in poverty: closer links between parents and schools, teacher trainings, effectively free schooling, and better access to information about rights.

FRANCE

Assessment of the RSA (Active Solidarity Income) with activists



Meeting of the magistrates of the Court of Auditors, Paris, France

ATD Fourth World was asked by the Court of Auditors to **participate in the national assessment of the Active Solidarity Income** (Revenu de Solidarité Active). In January 2021, ATD Fourth World produced a report on the lived experiences of RSA recipients, including activists, recommending changes to the system, such as individualisation and extension to 18-25 year olds. The report was drawn from the work carried out by five regional groups and is based on the Participatory Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty conducted in France by ATD Fourth World and its partners.

It is striking that the value of the RSA stands largely below

the income defining the poverty line in France (amounting to 51% of the threshold). Designed to act as the last bastion against precariousness, it does not provide access to basic needs.

Activists defined the meaning of a decent income and noted the shortcomings of the RSA: the amount is unpredictable, the social support is inadequate, the appeal is stigmatising, the obtention is difficult and the criteria of eligibility are not open to young people.

“We have the impression that we are asking for the right to live.”

“I feel like I am considered a person making mistakes.”

“With the RSA, you do not live, you survive.”

The report concluded that it impossible to live with dignity with the current amount and form of the RSA and presented recommendations. Through the drafting of the report with activists and the hearing at the Senate of Isabelle Bouyer, on February 9, 2021, **ATD Fourth World pleaded for a decent living wage**. ATD Fourth World pursues its action vis-à-vis national institutions in the hope of seeing the emergence of public policies that will only be appropriate if they are thought out and elaborated with the people concerned.

The OSEE project

In 2021, the 49 trainees of the first cohort of OSEE (Osons les savoirs de l'expérience de l'exclusion) completed their training. This pre-qualification course is aimed at people with experience of precariousness, who are involved in associations and have left the schooling system without a diploma, so that they can become professionals in the fields of social intervention and facilitation.

“People who have studied think that we are not capable because we experience difficulties. This training is important because we want to show that we are capable of learning, of practicing a profession to be of service to others”, a trainee confided.

The OSEE project helps trainees to **value the knowledge acquired through experience** and to gain or strengthen the skills that are necessary to access vocational training. But above all, it is an experiment that aspires to broaden the recognition of the knowledge of people in situations of exclusion. *“Today, these people cannot access the vocational training courses of their choice on their own*



OSEE project, France

because the system is not adapted. It is therefore a real challenge for our institutions,” says the national delegate of ATD Fourth World. It is crucial to develop the conditions for the generalisation of preparatory courses to give access to vocational training to ensure they are based on the recognition of experiential knowledge.

Supporting commitments in France

From July 13 to 18, the National Meeting of Commitments brought together more than **850 members of ATD Fourth World** in Jambville, near Paris, with the aim of **supporting and deepening commitments**, reflecting together on the fundamentals of ATD Fourth World, and opening to the challenges of the world.

The prospect of this meeting gave rise to a momentum throughout France: in 12 regions, 45 groups met to reflect. On site, participants discussed five themes: relationships between Fourth World activists, allies, and permanent members of the volunteer corps, responsibilities within the Movement, the evolution of commitments, training, and the challenges of the world. They also took part in a wide variety of workshops and forums: singing, poetry, cooking, theatre, discovery of ATD Fourth World experiments, evening gatherings, etc.

The short film by Simeon Brand, *Héritiers*, was presented and followed by a debate. The film retraces the journey of Martine Le Corre, a Fourth World activist who became a member of the International Leadership Team. The round-table discussion titled “**Leaving no**

one behind: committing to changing our institutions and society” featured exchanges between Florence Jany-Catrice, an economist, Marie-Aleth Grard, President of ATD Fourth World France, Jean-Michel Lucas, a researcher in economic sciences, and Dominique Potier, PS deputy for Meurthe-et-Moselle. The themes of dignity, access to culture, the co-construction of knowledge, and the importance of listening to all people concerned in the development of public policies were discussed so that social issues “cease to be the prerogative of experts”.

Strengthening individual and collective commitments, this major event was an opportunity to revisit common values and contributions. It **opened new areas of work**, in particular the development of ATD Fourth World at the international level around the challenges of equality, the fight against discrimination, truly participatory democracy, and the preservation of the planet. The question of the place and responsibility of young people and activists in the Movement was recognised as an important work to be deepened in the years to come.

The National Meeting of Commitments, Jambville, France



IV. Perspectives of the International Leadership Team



The International leadership Team of ATD Fourth World: Martin Kalisa, Chantal Consolini-Thiébaud, and Bruno Dabout

As we close this activity report, the world is shaken by the war in Ukraine. Like other wars in the world, it is causing great violence, death, destruction, and hatred between peoples who had long lived peacefully alongside each other. War creates extreme poverty and carries a risk of famine in certain regions of the world.

We know that conflicts affect people and families living in poverty more intensely than others. We know this from our experience in countries where political instability, economic crises, and armed conflicts persist; where climate change takes its heaviest toll, causing more poverty. In these countries, the members of ATD Fourth World are taking action to fight against poverty, inventing a fraternity that is stronger than divisions, a unity for more justice. They are peace builders and must be recognised as such, supported in their efforts, and joined by others so that conditions change.

In the face of this global situation, ATD Fourth World continues to stand systematically by the side of the people living in poverty. By sharing their lives and hopes and by pushing back poverty, ATD contributes to peace.

MAIN LINES OF ACTION FOR THE YEAR 2022

- ◆ The year 2022 will mark a great victory: the thirtieth anniversary of the recognition of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations, in 1992. By choosing the date of October 17, the United Nations recognised the importance of the gathering of rights defenders organised by ATD Fourth World since 1987. This day is an opportunity to give a louder voice to the people living in poverty, to their aspirations, to their struggles, and to the alliances needed to eradicate poverty and build peace.
Peace is not only the absence of armed conflict, but also the absence of poverty. This peace is based on the recognition of the equal dignity of all human beings. The efforts of the poorest families to build peace, while living in inhumane conditions, are meaningful in the present and for the future.
- ◆ ATD Fourth World has been very active in engaging in a deliberative process, bringing together members from all continents, to appoint a new International Leadership Team. This so-called discernment process also defined three priority orientations for the years 2022 to 2025: reaching out to young people; thinking and acting with the people where the climate crisis increases the violence of poverty; and strengthening the capacities of the members of ATD Fourth World in view of stabilising long-term commitments.

- **Fuelling the impetus of young people in the face of the questions that drive them, the injustices they denounce and the solidarity they create**

“ATD Fourth World benefits from being inspired by young people, from listening to them, and from working with them. Increasingly, in the face of worsening crises, young people resist and organise themselves, youth movements join forces and strengthen themselves.” (Discernment Group, July 2021)

We reaffirm the role of young people in the future of ATD Fourth World and the fight for the dignity of all, for a more just and fraternal world. Young people are often counted for nothing, they are left behind without any training or job. ATD Fourth World will pursue its efforts to reach out

to them, to enable them to come together and acquire skills by supporting their professional training and by developing experimental job-training projects.

Of course, young people have new ways of expressing themselves, of voicing their anger and their rejection of the unbearable – of racism, of the destruction of the environment, of human rights violations, of abuses against women. ATD Fourth World must make its 65-year history of fighting against poverty understandable to young people in search of meaning, so that more and more of them join the volunteer corps as permanent members.

- **Everywhere, thinking and acting with the poorest, especially where the climate crisis increases the violence of poverty**

“Climate change poses challenges to humanity as a whole and to the poorest populations in particular. ATD Fourth World must continue to seek to adapt to this situation and do its part to address this crisis. Social injustice and environmental injustice compound each other. They call for responses that are complementary and mutually reinforcing.” (Discernment Group, July 2021)

ATD Fourth World will further invest in building strategies to tackle social and environmental injustice, in particular by drawing on its experience in Brazil over the last ten years. It will also intensify and support new projects: an establishment in Alès (France), an Eco-Social Business initiative in New York (USA), and projects in the Central African Republic for example.

ATD Fourth World is also committed to implementing projects in places where the effects of climate change are highly prevalent in the lives of the poorest communities and to investing more human and financial resources.

- **Strengthening the capacities of the members of ATD Fourth World towards sustainable commitments**

“The International Leadership Team will continue to create and experiment with spaces dedicated to deepening commitments and consolidate co-responsibility.” (Discernment Group, July 2021)

The aim is to enable all members to share their experience with others, to train, and to strengthen their commitment and capacities in common. This will entail a reflection on the internal modes of governance of ATD Fourth World, which are based on co-responsibility.

To this end, sessions will be held for permanent members of the volunteer corps committed for 5 to 25 years, for activists from different countries of the world and for allies. Together, they will deepen their respective commitments and consider their paths of evolution.

The Tapori network is changing the design and conduct of its campaigns by building them with group facilitators in fifteen countries.

Finally, webinars open to all members of ATD Fourth World in the world will allow the International Leadership Team to explain the priority orientations and engage in direct dialogue with the audience.

→ Rebuilding after Covid

The pandemic has had a severe impact on the poorest populations and ATD Fourth World is committed to rebuilding upon their strongest aspirations.

In Latin America, while schools remained closed for two full years, teams maintained a pedagogical relationship with the children. A regional project on education, based on the Merging of Knowledge methodology, will enable different actors in the education sector to learn how to ensure the continuity of the right to education.

In regions of the world where social protection coverage is limited, the poorest families have suffered total

deprivation of resources, being unable to work on a daily basis. Therefore, the income-generating activities developed by ATD Fourth World are decisive to significantly change the lives of people whose access to paid work is very restricted.

After several initiatives in Africa, others are being launched or planned, such as in Haiti. The TAE project (*Travailler Apprendre Ensemble*) in France will celebrate its twentieth anniversary and will be assessed with a view to making adjustments where necessary.

→ Background work to support the daily fight against poverty and exclusion

In 2022, a series of research initiatives, academic works, and action seminars will enter their final phase.

The Seminar on social philosophy, as well as the CNAM (National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts)/CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research)/ATD Fourth World seminar to gain scientific recognition of the Merging of Knowledge methodology, as mentioned in the chapter on the Joseph Wresinski Memory and Research Centre, will be completed by the end of 2022.

The International Research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty will be the subject of numerous dissemination opportunities, including a webinar organised with the AFD (*Agence française de développement*), training in think-tanks in the United States, and an African regional seminar in Dakar.

The Merging of Knowledge methodology will be the subject of the final session of a training cycle in Latin America. Also, a network of researchers working on this approach will be developed in Africa.

An action seminar will be organised to leverage the 20 years of experience of the Knowledge/Health/Participation pilot project in Haiti. Finally, the international research project on the importance of family and social ties in the eradication of poverty, involving very poor families and individuals around the world, will reach a decisive stage with a gathering at the International Centre next spring.

These actions and efforts to expand the activities and presence of ATD Fourth World will contribute to meeting the expectation expressed recently by a young activist: *"It is not dreams we are talking about, it is just a matter of benefiting from the same things, the same rights as others. Above all we must be heard not as aspiring to dreams, but to reality."* (Marie)

V. The 2021 accounts of the International Movement ATD Fourth World

Between 2020 and 2021, **the accounting scope of the International Movement ATD Fourth World remained stable, with a slight increase in the total amount of expenses (from €4,077k to €4,178k, i.e., an increase of 2%),** reflecting the positive dynamic of collective activities throughout the world.

The accounts of the International Movement ATD Fourth World cover the following areas:

- structural costs of the International Centre, which has three sites: Pierrelaye, Méry-sur-Oise, and Baillet-en-France;
- public representation, international advocacy, and cross-cutting international projects;
- initiatives by the International Leadership Team and support to the members of ATD Fourth World;
- four regional coordination centres (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Europe) and follow-up of the Maghreb – Middle East and Indian Ocean regional centres;
- follow-up and activities related to the Common Commitments of ATD Fourth World, evaluation of activities;
- dynamics of the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty;
- multiple projects coordinated at the European level
- welcoming and training of members of ATD Fourth World at international level;
- conservation and dissemination of the history of the poorest by the Joseph Wresinski Memory and Research Centre;
- cross-cutting activities around communication, international volunteering, administration, finance, etc.;
- teams in 18 countries in Asia (2), Africa (7), the Indian Ocean (2), Latin America (5), the Caribbean (1), and the Middle East (1), for which the International Movement ATD Fourth World records accounting transactions;
- participation in fora to exchange experiences and practices.

2021 accounts of the International Mouvement ATD Fourth World (in K€)

EXPENSES	2021	2020
Rents, rental costs, maintenance	451	306
Services costs	33	112
Contributions to staff salaries and expenses	2 275	1 930
Expenses of teams outside France		1 026
Other operating expenses	1 383	594
Financial charges	7	33
Extraordinary expenses	0	40
Surplus	30	35
Total Expenses	4 179	4 077

PRODUCTS	2021	2020
ATD Fourth World Grant	2 700	2 380
Other grants	533	566
Participation of the structures	50	165
Income from teams outside France		56
Other operating income	883	897
Financial products	12	13
Extraordinary income	1	1
Total Income	4 179	4 077

Note: In 2021, the International Movement ATD Fourth World adopted a new chart of accounts, which explains the significant variation in certain items in the income statement (in particular, the expenditure and income items of teams outside France are no longer used and have been allocated to other items).

2021 balance sheet of the International Mouvement ATD Fourth World (in K€)

ASSETS	2021	2020	LIABILITIES	2021	2020
Fixed assets	125	151	Association funds, reserves	1 574	1 539
Current assets	688	580	Financial results	30	35
<i>of which Investment Securities</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	Dedicated funds	117	175
Receivables	2 067	2 216	Debts	286	582
Prepaid expenses	63	91	Deferred income	934	707
Total Assets	2 942	3 038	Total Liabilities	2 942	3 038

For more details on the 2021 accounts of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, please visit our website:

<https://www.atd-quartmonde.org/qui-sommes-nous/ethique-financiere/les-comptes-annuels/>

In France, ATD Fourth World has nine autonomous legal structures under French law, including the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

For more details on the 2021 accounts of this combined structure, please visit our website:

<https://www.atd-quartmonde.org/qui-sommes-nous/ethique-financiere/comptes-combines/>

Significant trends in 2021

In 2021, a return to growth in certain items that had decreased since the outbreak of the health crisis can be noted: travel, sessions, and various gatherings, among others; a sign of the gradual lifting of the uncertainties linked to the pandemic. While this resumption of activities is encouraging, the level of 2019 has yet to be reached.

The year 2021 was also marked by the end of a stage of funding by the AFD of a project in Haiti. This project

started in 2017 and aims at proving access for all to basic rights in the areas of health, education, and social protection. Despite the security challenges faced by the team, the action of the International Movement ATD Fourth World continues in Haiti pursuing the same goal, thanks to a new stage of funding granted by the AFD at the end of 2021.

Outlook

The provisional budget of the International Movement ATD Fourth World for the year 2022 has been estimated to increase to a total of €4,600 K€. This increase confirms the observation of a return to growth in international activities, but also a catch-up effect on sessions and events that could not take place in the last two years due to the pandemic.

The following points are worth noting:

- Travel is the item with the highest increase due to the catching-up of sessions and the numerous trips planned for this year.
- Items related to salaries and personnel costs are still increasing with the expected increase in the number of VSIs and a major effort on salaries to cover the significant inflation expected in 2022 in France and in all countries of the world.

As of 7 May 2022

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Jacqueline Page's drawing, "The pre-school", Port-au-Prince, Haiti