



Highlights for 2020

Report: how our funds have been used

«L'Essentiel», as its name indicates, presents the key points of our 2020 accounts, drawn up in cooperation between our President, administrators, chief auditor, and Administrative Director, Mr Jérôme Dartiguenave, and Mrs Catherine Baumont, who is in charge of its production, in collaboration with our friends from «Le Don en Confiance», an organisation that guarantees ethical standards and transparency. Over the years, we have tried to improve the clarity and presentation of this report, while following the new accounting rules for associations, which were modified on the first of January.

2020 was a particularly complex year.

In the East, the list of countries in serious crisis has grown: Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Ethiopia, and Armenia, not forgetting Ukraine, where a civil war is still raging. The explosion of the port of Beirut and the crisis in Lebanon have considerably increased our work. The disintegration of the Lebanese banking system, so important for the whole region, has forced us to be prudent and rigorous in sending funds, while risking our aid being blocked in Lebanese banks. This explains the mention in the accounts, on 31 December, of sums of money waiting to be paid by other means, for projects decided and announced by to our beneficiary partners.

In France, we feared a reduction in our resources due to the health crisis and its economic and social impact. However, we have been overwhelmed by the size of the donations received and the generosity and loyalty of our donors. We are also overjoyed to see new donors, sometimes young adults, who have joined us.

More than ever, the role of Les Chrétiens d'Orient is considerable in the Middle East, and the French government is increasingly aware of this, recognizing our expertise acquired through the dedication of our entire team and thus opening up possibilities for cooperation for the good of our Christian friends in carrying out their mission.

Many people in France, including religious leaders, elected officials, people working in the media and culture, and business leaders, have understood the urgent need to support the presence of Christians in the Middle East, which is a decisive factor in preventing the region from sinking into new wars that would be disastrous not only for the Middle East, but also for Europe. Europe is increasingly aware of its responsibility towards Christian communities.

There is a lot of work ahead of us. We need to remain as close as possible to the field of action, and to implement faster procedures that continue to meet our rigorous standards. Sometimes the scope of the work makes me afraid... Christ comforts us, as does the enthusiasm and commitment of all the Oeuvre's collaborators.

Mgr Pascal Gollnisch
General Director

The Work of the Œuvre d'Orient in a few figures

Established in

1856

73,000 donors

23 countries mainly in the Middle East

Support provided to **12**
Catholic oriental churches

60
religious congregations supported

1,124
recurring aids in 2020

€ 25,2 Million donations 2020

"The work of a Church Body, 'Œuvre d'Orient' has been about supporting Christians in the Eastern world for more than 160 years. It helps Christian communities to work with everyone, whatever their religious affiliation, in the societies to which they belong."

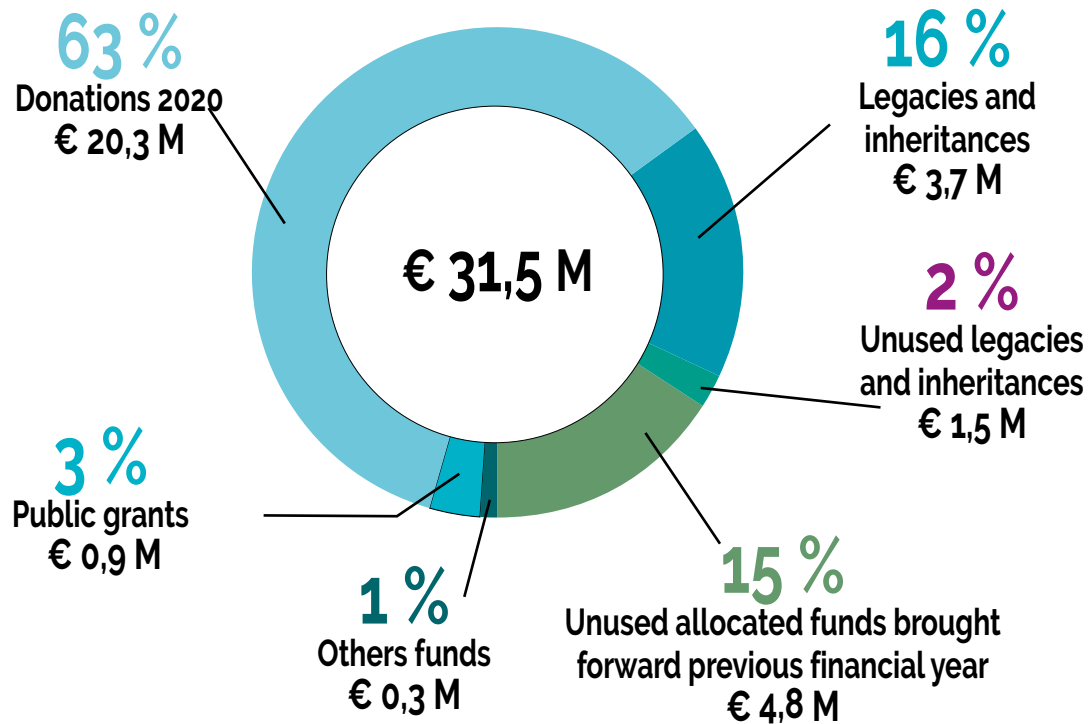
Financing

Overall resources for 2020 (including carryovers from previous years)

The donations (funds raised) for 2020: € 25,2 M

This represents 83% of overall resources

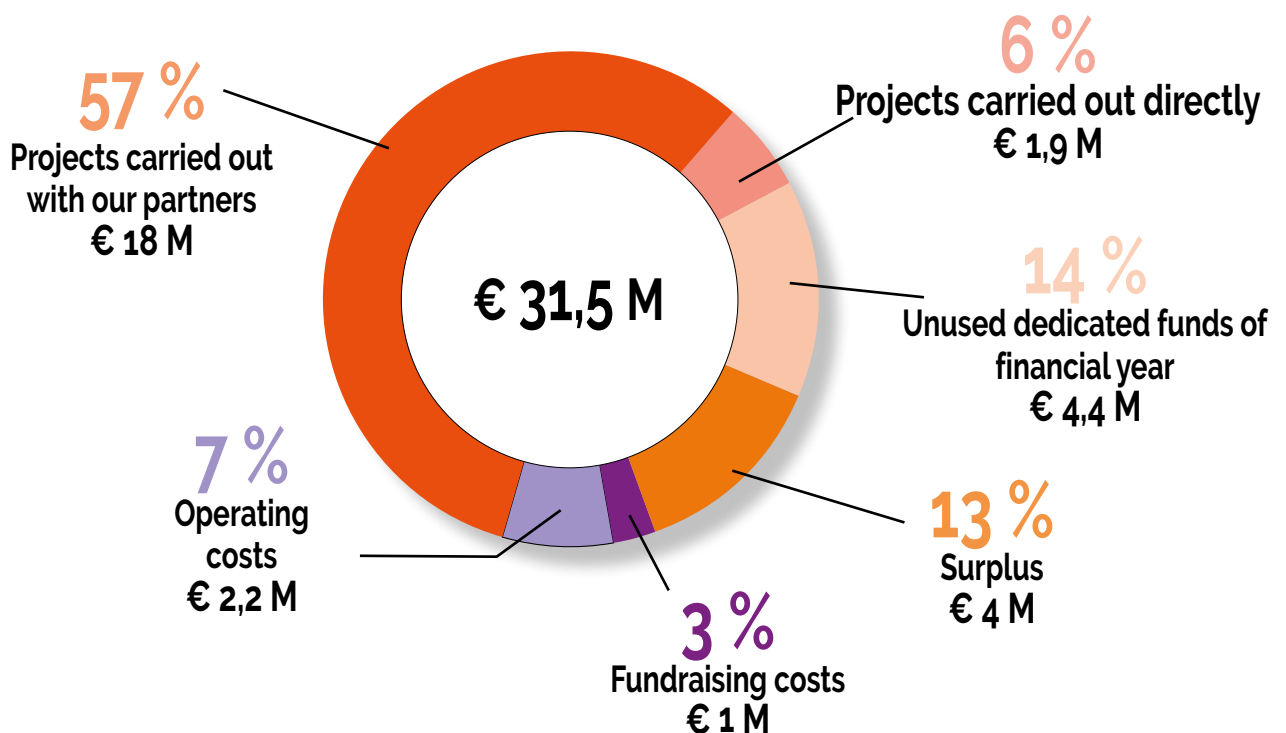
96% of resources come from public donations



Use of global resources in 2020

€ 28,3 M

90% of resources are allocated to social missions



Origin of resources

Generosity of the public

Almost all (96%) of the resources of the Oriental Charity come from the generosity of the public.

Despite the pandemic, these 73,000 donors were particularly mobilised in response to the tragedies that occurred in 2020 (Lebanon, Nagorno-Karabakh, Ethiopia). The number of donors increased by 25% and the amount collected by 39%. The means used have also evolved, 20% are now online donations.

Public grants

Some important projects are financed by public grants, a sign of confidence in the association as a reference in its humanitarian, social and educational actions.

We have partnerships with the Crisis and Support Centre of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and several regions of France.

The amount of legacies and inheritances varies from year to year; it was particularly high in 2020.

Volunteers: Oeuvre d'Orient is supported in its actions by 256 volunteers, whose contribution can be estimated at around 30 full-time jobs. Their activity has not diminished despite the health context.

Use of resources

90% of the resources are devoted to social missions (local projects, advocacy, grants, etc.).

The actions carried out abroad are managed for the most part by our local partners. The largest or most complex projects are carried out directly by Oeuvre d'Orient. In addition, some sixty volunteers have been sent on long-term missions to partner communities.

The catastrophic situation of the Lebanese banks, which serve the entire region, has forced us, since 2019, to be very cautious in the transfer of funds, sometimes leading to delays in the payment of aid.

The actions carried out in France consist mainly of aid to refugees and the Eastern Churches, study grants, promoting knowledge of Eastern Christians and advocacy.

The surplus is explained by a very strong increase in collections at the end of the year: 45% of donations received between 1 October and 31 December 2020.

Simplified balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

ASSETS	2020	2019
Fixed assets	€ 2,092,343	€ 802,888
Current assets and other	€ 24,289,044	€ 20,473,559
TOTAL ASSETS	€ 26,381,387	€ 21,276,447

LIABILITIES	2020	2019
I Equity <i>of which reserves</i>	€ 14,866,754 € 4,000,000	€ 9,988,924 € 4,000,000
II Dedicated funds, deferred funds and provisions	€ 4,324,379	€ 4,841,733
III Debts and other*	€ 7,190,254	€ 6,445,790
TOTAL LIABILITIES	€ 26,381,387	€ 21,276,447

* Projects committed to be paid

Non-current assets consist of equity investments, loans to partners and real estate legacies receivable. Current assets consist of financial legacies receivable, marketable securities and cash.

On the liabilities side, the equity is divided between the association's funds, the non-expendable endowment and the reserve, which are not available, the expendable endowment, the retained earnings and the surplus, which are available, and finally the legacies receivable.

Reserve policy: the reserve of €4,000,000 covers one year of structural costs: operations, appeal to the public and direct missions.

The outstanding dedicated funds and debts (projects) result from the volume of donations received at the end of the year.

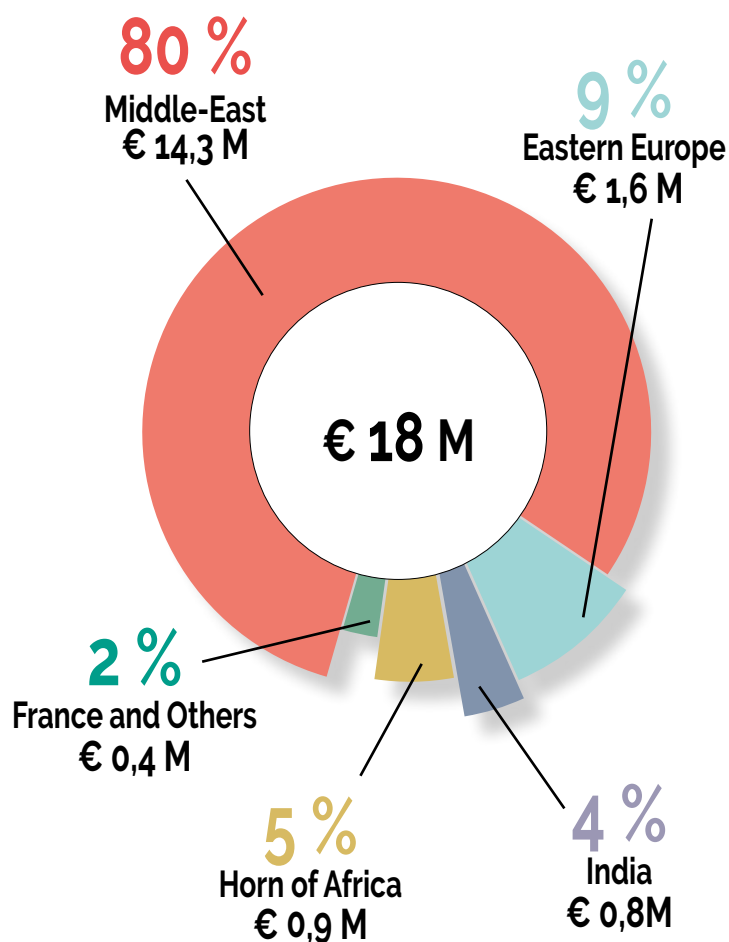
Projects carried out with our partners

Breakdown of the use of funds by country

Egypt	€ 1,303,426	7,2 %
Iraq	€ 1,841,189	10,2 %
Iran	€ 77,750	0,4 %
Israel	€ 225,980	1,3 %
Jordan	€ 78,436	0,4 %
Lebanon	€ 7,137,821	39,6 %
Palestine	€ 127,638	0,7 %
Syria	€ 3,306,536	18,3 %
Turkey	€ 208,253	1,2 %
Armenia	€ 715,319	4,0 %
Bulgaria	€ 37,000	0,2 %
Other Eastern European countries	€ 89,647	0,5 %
Greece	€ 48,630	0,3 %
Romania	€ 327,331	1,9 %
Ukraine	€ 445,205	2,5 %
India	€ 788,091	4,4 %
Eritrea	€ 196,701	1,1 %
Ethiopia	€ 715,876	4,0 %
France*	€ 353,169	2,0 %
Others	€ 22,500	0,1 %
Total	€ 18 046,498	100 %

* Eastern churches and study bursaries in France

Breakdown by geographical area



High points of 2020

The pandemic has forced us to rethink not only the way we work in order to continue our mission, but also the way we maintain contact with our staff and volunteers, our beneficiaries and volunteers in the field, and of course our donors.

A year of crisis in Lebanon

Since 2019, Lebanon has been in the midst of an unprecedented political, financial, economic and moral crisis, with half the population living below the poverty line. Since this catastrophe, Œuvre d'Orient has chosen to guarantee the future by helping Lebanese schools to survive. This choice was validated by the announcement by the President of the Republic of France of the creation of the Fonds d'aide des écoles francophones du Moyen-Orient. This partnership between the State and Oeuvre d'Orient has already made it possible to support one hundred and forty schools, including one hundred and fifteen in Lebanon.

The explosion in Beirut

On the 4 August (2020), tragedy struck Beirut. Our local team intervened immediately, emergency aid was released and the most urgent repairs were organised. Most of the affected schools were able to reopen for the new school year. Major aid was provided to hospitals in the port district and reconstruction work is continuing.

November and December marked by two wars

As soon as the ceasefire ended the war in Nagorno-Karabakh, several staff members went to the region to provide moral and financial support. We also continued to assess the consequences of the conflict in Tigray (Ethiopia) with our local partners and to provide emergency aid. Media and public awareness activities were implemented.

Main beneficiary countries

40 % of our aid for the **Lebanon**



€ 7,137,821 → 371 projets

18 % of our aid for **Syria**



€ 3,306,536 → 190 projets

10 % of our aid for **Iraq**



€ 1,841,189 → 126 projets

PLEASE NOTE:

This report does not include our direct missions.

- **In France:** assistance to refugees, public information campaign and advocacy.
- **Overseas:** missions involving our volunteers and supporting our beneficiaries.

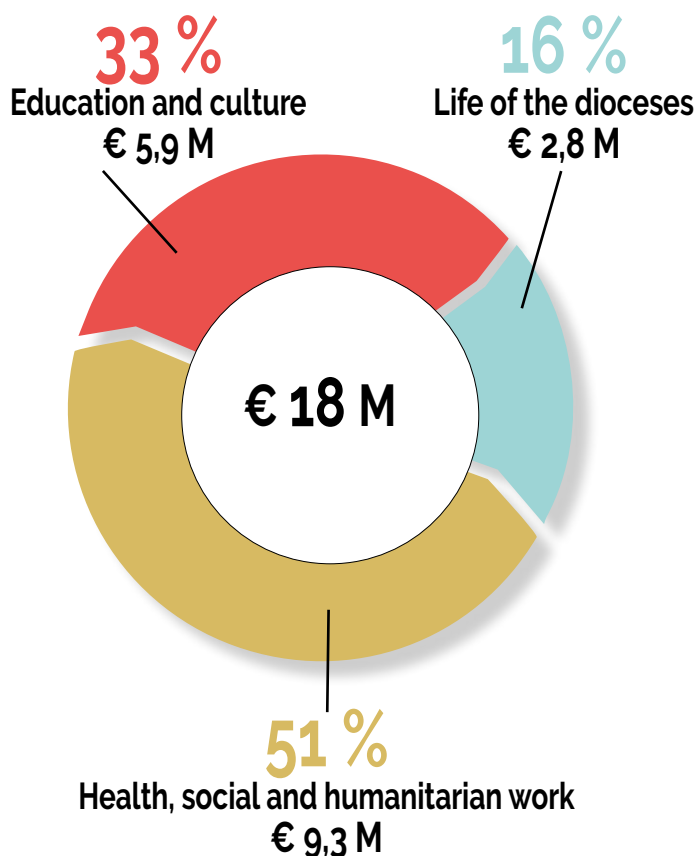
17 May - 3rd Eastern Christians Day

The unprecedented context of the third Eastern Christians Day did not diminish our commitment. On the contrary, it has multiplied ways of demonstrating communion between Eastern and Western Christians.

A year of awards

The Grand Prix du Rayonnement Français was awarded to the charity by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in recognition of its commitment «to French-language education and the reconstruction of Lebanon». The charity also received the "Prix de l'Académie Catholique de France", chaired by Hugues Portelli, which was awarded for the first time to a legal entity, and also the "Prix de la Charité Reine Hélène" from HRH Prince Serge of Yugoslavia.

Distribution by type of work



Education and culture

Education: crèches, schools, colleges, universities, scholarships, youth movement, advancement of women, general and religious education

Information: conferences, seminars; research to encourage ecumenism and interfaith dialogue; libraries, cultural centres, heritage

Health, social and humanitarian work

Treatment: hospitals, clinics

Care: orphans, the elderly, disabled

Emergency aid: housing, food, medicine, heating...

Life of the dioceses

Churches, convents and parish halls: (re)construction, renovation, facilities

How parishes work: training for catechists, pensions...

Support for the daily life of priests, clergymen/ women

Iconic projects 2020



LEBANON - BEIRUT EMERGENCY

€ 2,4 million to relieve and rebuild

Christian neighbourhoods near the port were particularly affected by the double explosion. Since the 4 August, twenty-five schools, five hospitals, two dispensaries, one hundred and fifty homes for affected families, eight churches and cathedrals have been restored and thousands of meals provided, thanks to the generosity of our seventy-three thousand individual donors.

This is in addition to the regular support provided to communities, as well as assistance to schools through the Fund for Francophone Schools in the Middle East (see Highlights). Other identified needs have been funded through partner foundations and sponsorship, for example the ALIPH Heritage Foundation.



SYRIA - ALEP

Micro-credit to help people return to work

This project is important because it helps working families to stay in their hometowns. The aptly named Hope Centre supports beneficiaries in their professional projects. It enables them to acquire or repair work tools thanks to a micro-credit scheme.

Between 2018 and 2020, three hundred and ninety projects were supported. Seventy-five percent of beneficiaries have seen their income increase by more than fifty percent. Nineteen percent have become financially independent.



IRAQ - QARAQOSH

Reconstruction of 100 houses

After the liberation of the Nineveh Plain at the end of 2017, Œuvre d'Orient, in partnership with the local Reconstruction Committee, started to restore houses to encourage the return of displaced families.

Between 2018 and 2020, more than 100 houses were restored, enabling around 600 people to have a roof over their heads.



EGYPT - MINIA

A project for people with disabilities

The L'Arche care home accommodates 20 mentally handicapped people supervised by 8 instructors. Renovation and expansion of the home was necessary in order to accommodate visits by pilgrims and groups. As soon as the work is completed, 8 young people will be recruited to welcome visitors, to clean and to help in the kitchen. Moreover, the arrival of visitors from outside the community will be an opportunity to exchange with the residents and to change the way society views them.

Our organisation

L'Œuvre d'Orient is a French Catholic and non-political association of general interest governed by the law of 1 July, 1901. The Board of Directors has been chaired by Jean-Yves Tolot since 9 June 2021. He succeeds Admiral Pierre Sabatié-Garat who held the post for 13 years. Mgr Pascal Gollnisch is the Director General.

Mission

Œuvre d'Orient serves the Eastern Christian communities. Christians want to serve their countries and live in peace, despite difficult economic, social, political or religious contexts. Our mission is to help them stay in their countries by continuing to serve without discrimination.

Why should they stay?

Eastern Christians play an important role in the societies in which they live.

→ They have always been there

They live on their own land, where they have lived there for 2000 years. They are the guardians and protectors of their heritage, both tangible and intangible.



→ They promote citizenship

Through empowerment of women, acceptance of difference, and care for the most disadvantaged, Eastern Christians advance the notion of citizenship and respect for human rights.



→ They contribute to the retreat of fundamentalism



The network of schools which is open to all, teaches religious tolerance, and is an antidote to fundamentalism. Their dispensaries, hospitals and centres for the disabled bear witness to universal charity.

→ They promote dialogue



Their diversity makes them particularly sensitive to the richness of dialogue. The healthy relationships they have maintained for centuries with neighbouring communities give them a good knowledge of Islam and, in the Holy Land, of Judaism.

→ They are actors of peace



Enriched by their education, and by their openness to modernity and the practice of the Gospel, they are often actors of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace.

The way we operate

Since its creation, Œuvre d'Orient has developed its work with the support of its partners, the Eastern Catholic Churches, which have a unique network of actors: dioceses, religious congregations, and associative and informal structures. Its daily presence on the ground, means it is well-placed to understand real needs and to implement reliable, efficient and cost-effective projects.

The association relies on a Lebanon-Syria-Jordan Country

Director and his deputy based in Lebanon, volunteers in the field and missi dominici who visit beneficiaries in their mission countries. Every year there also are visits from many leaders of the target helped communities.

In this way, Œuvre d'Orient is a pioneer in the application of new principles of humanitarian action, the aim of which is to rely as much as possible on local structures.

International network of partners

Œuvre d'Orient considers that the development of associations sharing the same values and the same concern for supporting the missions of Eastern Christian communities is part of its vocation. In the past, it has thus contributed to the creation of the CNEWA (USA, Canada) and Solidarité-Orient (Belgium). In recent years, Œuvre d'Orient has supported the creation of «sister» organisations in Europe. In this way, Œuvre d'Orient Monaco, FACE (UK), Dzielo dla Orientu (Poland) and Œuvre d'Orient Switzerland were established.

These are essentially links of friendship, information sharing and reflection. From the start, these structures benefit from the image, know-how and network of the Oeuvre, as well as financial support until they become autonomous, if necessary.

These «sister associations» are free to choose how they allocate their resources and the projects they wish to support. Some of them have chosen to rely on our experience to secure their operations and entrust us with the payment of aid and the monitoring of projects.

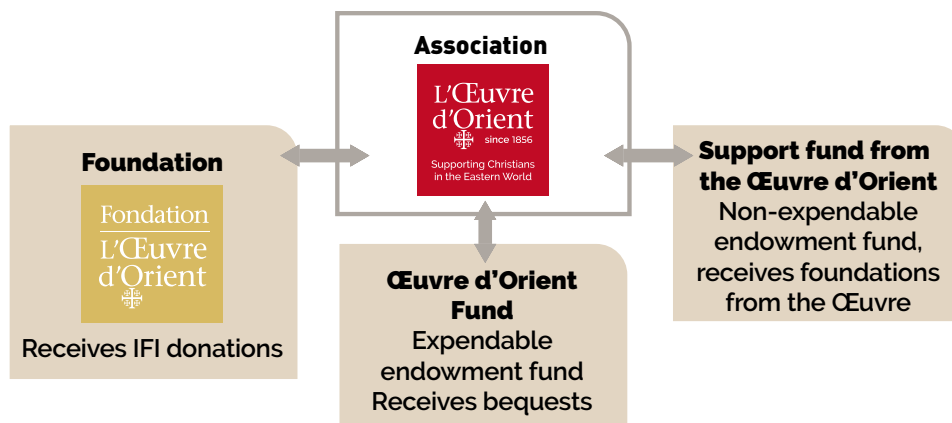
L'Œuvre
d'Orient
depuis 1856

au service
des chrétiens d'Orient

Highlights for 2020

The volunteers in Lebanon in December 2020. Their mission: teaching, caring for the elderly and disabled, emergency humanitarian service in Beirut. Despite the pandemic, 58 volunteers were on the ground between September 2020 and May 2021.

Entities



Governance

The General Assembly: full members are admitted upon presentation by two members of the Board of Directors, approval by the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors is made up of 4 to 12 volunteer members, chosen from among the full members of the association. Their term of office is 4 years, renewable twice, the age limit is 75 years. The Board meets at least twice a year.

4 sector Bureaux prepare the work of the Board. They are made up of the members of the Board

of Directors, qualified administrators, the Director General, and the heads of the sectors, if necessary, to deal with specific subjects:

- **Allocations Office:** study and validation of aid applications
- **Finance Office:** budget evaluation, cost accounting and investments
- **Communication Office:** main areas of focus and communication budget
- **International Office:** main direction of European development and relations with international organisations



Control and Transparency

has been awarded the «Don en Confiance» label, which guarantees transparency, respect for donors, efficiency, probity and impartiality. We have also undertaken an evaluation of our actions in education, health and aid to vulnerable people.

Our accounts are supervised by a chartered accountant and certified by auditors JEGARD. The information in this document is taken from the 2020 Annual Report, which is available, like our statutes, on request by mail to Œuvre d'Orient _20, rue du Regard 75006 Paris or by email to contact@oeuvre-orient.fr.

The Annual Accounts and the Auditors' Report are published in the Journal Officiel (www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr) and available on oeuvre-orient.fr.

20, rue du Regard 75006 Paris Tél 01 45 48 54 46
contact@oeuvre-orient.fr / wwwoeuvre-orient.fr