

Reducing Poverty Sustainably

Annual Report
2023-2024

F O N D A T I O N
Joseph Lagesse



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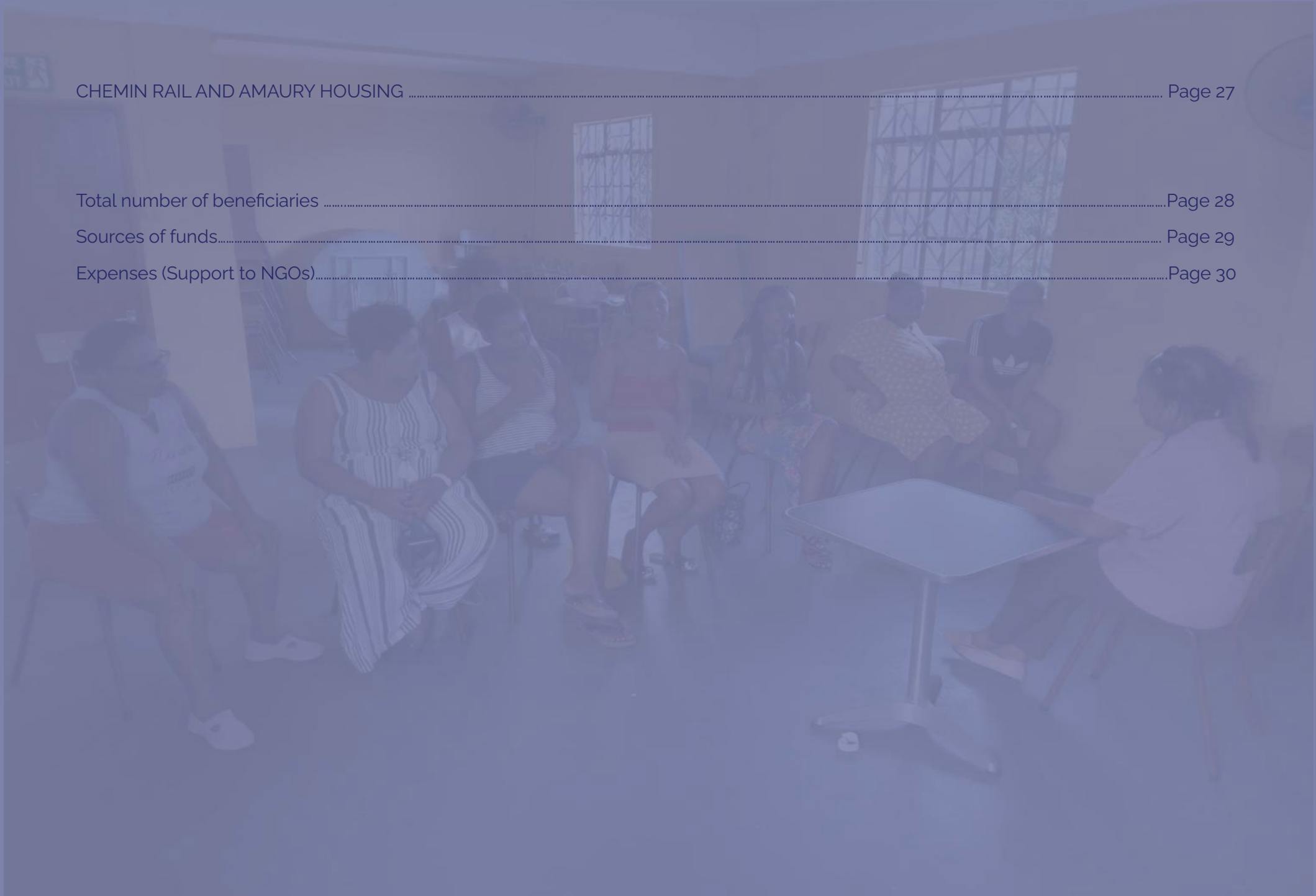
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Fondation Joseph Lagesse



EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The Empowerment Program is the largest program designed and set up by the foundation. It comprises various projects, usually targeting the community, as a neighbourhood where living conditions are improved, or youth, who need support for their future. It uses a community development approach, i.e., assessing the community's needs, mobilising members of the community and implementing initiatives with the community.

Capacity Building Program

The Capacity-Building program is an integral part of FJL's Empowerment program, aiming at improving the capacity of the community. In 2017, a group of 14 persons living in Bois Marchand was set up to act as facilitators for the community and liaison between Bois Marchand and Fondation Joseph Lagesse. They received training from FJL's staff and learned how to assess a community, mobilise their neighbourhood and set up small initiatives. The facilitators also learned how to look for funding and sponsors, how to draft a project, how to make a provisional budget and develop a network. They facilitators also conducted bi-monthly meetings to discuss issues in the community.

In 2023-2024:



8 women and 6 men
were part of the
Community Facilitators



4 training sessions organised
under the themes: "Financial
literacy", "Setting of an NGO",
"Develop a network of
stakeholders", "Writing a
social project"



Prevention of drugs and alcohol use

Alcohol and drug use are challenging issues within a community and FJL decided to continue its community-based prevention program, started with its US partner, CADCA. In this program (number) of participants from 4 localities received training from CADCA.

Completed in 2021 during COVID, the program needed to be sanctioned by a certificate-giving celebration, which was held early this year. Coalitions faced challenges to continue meeting on their own and eventually suffered significant loss in membership commitment and attendance. Some initiatives to recruit new members were made but no significant program has been set up till now. The project is being currently reviewed.

In 2023-2024:



15 women and 7 men were active members of the 4 coalitions



1 refresher course on the theme of "Community diagnosis" provided to the coalitions of Solitude and Bois Marchand.



The coalition of Solitude had 7 meetings, Bois Marchand had 2 meetings, and Barkly had 1 meeting.



30 members who had completed at least 8 training sessions out of 11 were awarded a certificate from CADCA.



Support to youth

Tertiary education

In 2023-2024, three young adults from the FJL Scholarship Scheme were completing their last year of education overseas. No new request for scholarship was awarded by FJL, as it is not recognised by NSIF as an eligible CSR initiative.

Supported by the foundation since his pre-med, a young male adult has completed his training as Doctor in Osteopathy in Florida, U.S.

The other young student has completed his studies in medicine and is now working in Emergency services in France.

Professional Training

The foundation is currently sponsoring two young adults, who are currently completing their final year of BA(Hons) in International Hotel Management under VATEL Business School's LIFT Program.

In 2023-2024:



One young adult has begun his medical internship in Emergency Medicine at Angers in September 2023, and the other has completed his final year at medical school in the US



The youth have currently both completed their 2nd year and have now started their 3rd and final year.





EU funded project, *Horizon 2024: A teenage pregnancy prevention initiative*, started in early 2021, is undergoing its 4th and final year. Offering a complete set of activities, its value lies in a holistic approach to best protect the youth and promote their development. Last year, the overall coordination of the project was done by Mr. Shaad Chellapermal, Empowerment program & Advocacy officer at FJL, while supervision is still done by Ms. Martine de Souza, the founder of the project.

HORIZON 2024 activities are grouped in 5 clusters, each having a specific goal and/or targeted population. The following activities were implemented during the 2023-2024 period:

Promoting healthy sexual and reproductive education (cluster 1)

The sexual and reproductive health program within HORIZON 2024 is built around UNESCO's 8 key aspects, including values, gender, rights, human body development, sexuality. The activity is delivered through 15 sessions under various formats: workshops, group activities and discussions.

FJL called upon the expertise of three external service providers:

- a. Ms. Gaëlle Schuchter (10–13-year-old group),
- b. Three team members from PILS (14–16-year-old group and their parents).

In 2023-2024:



17 youth aged 10 to 13 years, 29 youth aged 14 to 16 years, and 16 parents received at least 1 SRH session.



SRH skills and knowledge improved by:
21% in 10–13-year-olds,
14% in 14–16-year-olds, and
27% among parents



16 SRH sessions provided to 10–13-year-olds
8 SRH sessions provided to 14–16-year-olds
3 SRH sessions provided to parents



Enhancing development of young adolescents (cluster 2)

2 programs were run under this cluster this year:

a. *The Life Skills Program*

Targeting youth aged 14 to 19 and facilitated by Nicholas Florine, currently Community Liaison Officer and social worker at the foundation, the program addresses various topics like self-esteem, expression of Self, development of healthy relationships, awareness of the dangers associated with addiction, violence, developing decision-making skills, handling difficult life situations, acquiring knowledge about children's rights, to enhance the development of core competencies (life skills).

This year, the program was run twice.

b. *Youth Professional Development*

As a continuity to the Life Skills program, the older participants are offered individual preparation and group sessions, to enhance access to professional training and employment. CV drafting, preparation for job interviews and guidance for administrative steps like opening a bank account. Mr. Florine also helps the youth determine their career path and liaises with institutions on their behalf for training and job placement opportunities.

In 2023-2024:



35 youth were beneficiaries of the Life Skills program. 15 of them were beneficiaries of the Youth Professional Development



13 life skills sessions were provided to each group of youth. 4% and 7% overall improvement in skills respectively in each group



177 individual coaching sessions and 1 group session were provided to the 15 beneficiaries of the Youth Professional Development



2 youth received training
3 youth became casual workers
5 secured a permanent job



Building capacity of women and parents, enhancing family resilience (cluster 3)

a. *Effective Parenting (Thomas Gordon)*

The Effective Parenting program (Thomas Gordon) aims at teaching parents, skills in active listening, communication, self-assertiveness, conflict-resolution. The activity helps strengthening families and targets HORIZON 2024 young beneficiaries' parents. The program provided by the Gordon Institute, has been facilitated by certified trainer, Mrs Marielle Requin.

b. *Atelier des Mamans*

A workshop focused on positive discipline facilitated by certified Positive Discipline trainer, Ms. Marylyn Payet, gathered (number) mothers living in Bois Marchand. It provides skills to increase self-esteem, heal past traumatic life experiences, improve their parenting skills and explore their talents to enhance financial autonomy. The program also offers two field trips to the participants.

In 2023-2024:



20 parents enrolled for Effective Parenting course, and 10 completed it.
10 women were beneficiaries of Atelier des Mamans



12 sessions of 2 hours of Effective Parenting
11 sessions of Atelier des Mamans, including 1 session from each MAM and Brigade de la Protection de la Famille



There was 13 % percentage improvement in knowledge and skills of Effective Parenting



Women from Atelier des Mamans had a 51% percentage improvement in knowledge and skills



Improving access to birth control equipment and healthcare facilities (cluster 5)

a. Access to healthcare facilities

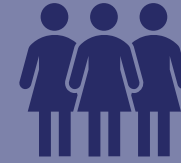
Following last year's meeting with women living in Bois Marchand, a 2nd focus group with different participants was organised. It aimed to understand better the barriers faced by women living in the locality Bois when trying to access healthcare services.

After focus group analysis, FJL's team met with government health services, including the Non-Communicable Diseases Department of the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life, and the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association, to assess the opportunities for an outreach service to the locality of Bois Marchand.

b. Youth Anti-Drug Coalition

As part of promoting healthy lifestyles, HORIZON 2024 offers to set up a Youth Anti-Drug Coalition. A group of adolescents were mobilised and recruited to be part of the coalition and receive specific training so that they could set up activities to address and prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drugs use. *Union Zeness Bois Marchand* was set up and an official launch took place on 29th June 2024. Regular meetings are run under the supervision and training of two members of the foundation, namely Mr. Nicholas Florine and Mr. Shaad Chellapermal.

In 2023-2024:



11 women aged 20-58 years participated in the focus group



20 active youth within the coalition



LITERACY PROGRAM

Set up in 2022, this program was designed by FJL following requests from the community, especially the facilitators of Bois Marchand, both for children and their parents. To better understand this issue, the foundation conducted a study, assessing the situation both among primary level children in 5 ZEP schools and among adults working for various BUs in IBL. Key informant interviews were also conducted with professionals working in education in Mauritius. It was concluded that illiteracy among children aged 8 to 10 in primary schools in Mauritius was a systemic situation which needed to be addressed by the authorities and that the foundation could focus on adults, so that its impact could cascade down to their children.

According to the National Household Survey 2022, 91.9% of the population of Mauritius is literate.

A simple survey was done by asking HC managers from six of IBL's clusters to assess the number of potential candidates for a literacy program. 346 illiterate adults were identified as potential beneficiaries.

The foundation looked for literacy trainers to start the Literacy program and 5 employees of IBL were trained (60 hours) to act as Literacy trainers, by Mrs Valerie Feuilhaerde.

In 2023-2024:



6 trainers were enrolled in the training in providing literacy courses. 4 completed the program.



40 hours of train the trainer sessions were provided



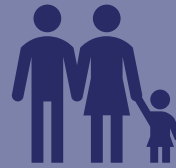
RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM

The Rapid Response Program was set up as a continuous service offered by Fondation Joseph Lagesse for many years.

Social support

Social Support is a professional service delivered by two FJL social workers, Mr. Nicholas Florine and Mrs. Véronique Mars, to assess needs and bring relevant support and aid to approximately 10 families each year. Key resource persons for this service, they offer one-to-one encounters with persons living in high poverty from regions ranging from Bois Marchand, Roche-Bois, La Briquetterie, Port-Louis to Quatre-Bornes (homeless), assess emergency and design a short-term and mid-term action plan for each family. Counseling sessions and referrals to social services complete the Social Support program within FJL.

In 2023-2024:



39 families reached and accompanied



701 site visits made



678 sessions of active listening provided



129 referrals made to relevant institutions



65 referrals resulted in the improvement or resolution of the families' situation



Emergency health interventions

Fondation Joseph Lagesse has historically been a key actor in cases of urgent medical needs from people who cannot afford to fund their treatment, including surgical treatment needs. Several requests are made to the foundation, and an assessment is made by members of the team. After careful case evaluation, funding for medical emergency (often where life is threatened) is provided to eligible beneficiaries, by directly sending the funds to the medical institutions.

Food aid

For a temporary, short-term duration, food vouchers are provided to families in distress for food, to tackle basic needs.

Consolidation of houses

Construction materials like iron sheets and wood planks to tackle the deterioration of houses due to wear or natural disasters, are provided on an ad-hoc basis to some families.

In 2023-2024:



7 families were provided with 8 food vouchers



1 baby and 2 male adults were supported for their medical emergencies



8 families received construction materials, and their houses were consolidated



ADVOCACY

Liniversite Popiler

Liniversite Popiler (People's University) is an initiative of ATD Quart Monde, an international non-profit organization, which aims to eradicate poverty through a human rights approach.

The idea behind such an initiative is to allow people living in poverty to share their experience, knowledge and thoughts with others in their situation. The information collected is carefully recorded for the purpose of research and advocacy.

Fondation Joseph Lagesse has been a partner of ATD Quart Monde for more than 15 years and a member of *Comité 17 Octob*. This year, our team held 1 focus groups for Liniversite Popiler (June 2024) with people living in Bois Marchand to discuss the topic "Addiction". The information gathered was then shared during a plenary session at ICJM with other families living in other underserved regions of Mauritius, under the guidance and facilitation of two members of ATD Quart Monde.

Beneficiaries of the foundation are also prepared via focus group on the theme "and invited to share their experiences during the official ceremony of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, also organised by ATD Quart Monde.

In 2023-2024:



18 beneficiaries were brought the official ceremony of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17th October 2023."



Following our team's preparation, 16 persons from Bois Marchand participated to the plenary session on 2nd June 2024 to discuss the theme "Addictions".



IBL ON THE MOVE

IBL on the Move is an IBL Together charity event in collaboration with Fondation Joseph Lagesse, set up to support a local non-profit. Every year, IBL On The Move gathers about 1000 participants who register in various competition races, which include swimming, cycling or running. 100% of registration fees are given to a non-profit selected by the IBL On The Move committee, prior to the event.

In 2023, the NGO CUT (Collectif Urgence Toxida) was selected as the beneficiary of the 10th edition of IBL On The Move. Amount of funds totalled Rs 790,300.

The project brought by CUT targeted women who inject drugs with two main activities:

- i. Providing essential health and hygiene kit for women and babies
- ii. Setting up discussion and support groups

In 2024's IBL On The Move 11th edition, the local non-profit PEDOSTOP was selected to receive raised funds.

A total amount of Rs 897,892 was raised to be used in providing psychological support and legal aid to victims of child sexual abuse.

In 2023-2024:



31 women are beneficiaries of the programs funded under IBL on the Move



Pregnant women and young mothers were provided with monthly packages of hygiene materials from February to June 2024



3 discussion groups were organised from March to June 2024



SUPPORT TO NGOs

In addition to its own programs, Fondation Joseph Lagesse also develops 3-year partnerships with NGOs in need finance support which they cannot obtain from the NSIF.

In 2023-2024, the foundation supported 9 NGOs/CSOs:

1. *Ecole St. Patrick (Fondation Cours Jeanne D'Arc)*

Offers quality mainstream education to children who are not able to follow the curriculum in other schools due to inabilities or learning difficulties.

The partnership with FJL is a unique project where staff from IBL Head Office support the school on a voluntary basis, topped up with FJL's own funds.

2. *Social Circus of Cité La Chaux*

Located in Mahebourg vicinity, it aims at providing children from the underserved neighbourhoods of Cité La Chaux and Cité Tôle, with artistic skills and afterschool activities, including dancehall and acrobatics.

In this 3rd and final year, the foundation supported the NGOs administration costs, afterschool activities and the salary of 6 facilitators.

3. *Enn Rev Enn Sourir*

Enn Rev Enn Sourir provides support to patients suffering from cancer, needing surgery

In 2023-2024:



9 children from Ecole St. Patrick were sponsored by IBL employees and FJL



At Social Circus, 72 children and youth received training:
30 theatre classes
29 dancehall classes
16 acrobatics classes



4. *Ecole de Football Jean Eon, Grand-Gaube*

Ecole de Foot Jean Eon football club is a CSO which provides football training sessions to vulnerable youth living in Grand Gaube. Two football coaches were supported with the funds this year. Under the same program, the 2023/2024 season of youth from Académie de Football du Nord was also partially funded.

5. *Serge Coutet Government School Parents Teachers Association*

Serge Coutet Government School is located in Baie du Tombeau. IBL Seafood Hub has been a longtime support of the Parents Teachers Association funding breakfasts and afterschool homework activities to the children.

Last year, FJL funded the recruitment and salary of a social worker. This year, FJL outsourced its social worker to act as a mentor to the school's social worker and to include some families from Baie du Tombeau in the Rapid Response program.

6. *Pedostop*

Pedostop is an NGO committed to protect children from sexual abuse. The foundation's Board members decided to fund project research by the company Analysis, affiliated with KANTAR, whose goal is to establish more precise data about the prevalence of sexual violence over children of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

In 2023-2024:



30 children of Jean Eon RCA School and 30 youth from Grand Gaube followed football training sessions.

17 girls and 2 boys were able to continue their sports training at AFN thanks to funding



3 families from Serge Coutet Government school were supported under the Rapid Response Program



7. ANFEN

ANFEN provides non-formal education to vulnerable youth excluded from the mainstream. The foundation funds the NGO's Aline Leal Culinary School, including partial salaries of three staff members and other expenses for the running of the school.

8. Quartier de Lumiere

Quartier de Lumière runs an educational program, La Ruche, which provides afterschool activities and psychological support to children living in La Valette, Bambous.

9. Rotary Club of Bagatelle

Rotary Club of Bagatelle set up a partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Rotary Club of Pondicherry, India, and the Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital, to offer free treatment and surgery to children suffering from squint.

In 2023-2024



13 youth enrolled at Ecole Culinaire Aline Leal (ANFEN) in March 2024.



8 girls were provided with pottery classes at Créa'Terre



The eye surgery of 5 children was sponsored



Projets Sourire

Projets Sourire fund philanthropic activities for children living in underserved neighbourhoods. Funds come from different BUs of IBL under the 25% Reduced CSR amount.

The aim of this program is to ensure inclusivity of access by children coming from vulnerable environments to sports and leisure events, end-of-year school celebrations and field trips.

This year, Projets Sourire benefitted to one youth and 72 children through one non-profit organisation:

1. FJL provided young judo athlete, Lucas David support to attend the African Judo Championships.
2. Social Circus of Cité La Chaux, was able to bring 72 children to outings at the beach, the movie theatre for the end-of-year celebrations.

In 2023-2024:



Lucas David obtained the bronze medal in his category (-90Kg) in the African Judo Championships



72 children and youth were taken to 4 outings: 1 magic festive, 1 beach outing at La Cambuse and 2 cinema outings during the end of year 2023



Nou Zenfan Bois Marchand Ltd



Nou Zenfan Bois Marchand

Nous Zenfan Bois Marchand (NZBM) is a non-profit organisation, set up by Fondation Joseph Lagesse in (year) to act as the entity responsible for the pre-primary school built by FJL in 2010 and for the implementation of other satellite programs set up in the locality. This year, NZBM has received its 1st grant from the NSIF to cover part of the costs of its Food program.

Nou Zenfan Bois Marchand Pre-Primary School

Our ECCEA registered Pre-Primary school offers quality education to approximately 45-50 children each year, at almost no charge to their parents. Its program is a response to the lack of educational services for young children within the locality of Bois Marchand. The school is composed of two equipped classrooms, each welcoming a different age group: 3-4 years old for *maternelle 1* class, and 4-5 years for *maternelle 2* class. Individual attention and quality teaching are the core of the educational service offered by certified pre-primary teachers and assistants. The children also benefit from activities and events such as a Sports Day, a Christmas Celebration, and two field trips every year. Teaching material and uniforms are provided to the children free of charge. Most of the children enter H. Ramnarain Government School after their 2 years at NZBM Pre-Primary.

In 2023-2024:



30 girls and 31 boys attended pre-primary school



The school was open for 158 days. Average attendance rate of the children was 76.6%.



2 educational fieldtrips were organised in July 2023 and March 2024: at La Vanille Crocodile Park and Les Ecuries de Mon Rocher



An end of year show and a Christmas celebration were held in October and November 2023



1 sports day was held in June 2023



14 children graduated the pre-primary school and were enrolled in Grade 1 in January 2024



Food Program

The Food Program is an initiative closely related to the educational services offered, to enhance the children's health and increase attendance at school. It reaches both children from the Nou Zenfan Bois Marchand Pre-Primary School and the children living in Bois Marchand, going to Primary School, who had been pupils from the Pre-Primary School, therefore a total of 45 children.

The main aim of the program is to guarantee that pre-primary school children are provided with at least two hot meals per school day (breakfast and lunch), and that needy primary school children are provided with breakfast before going to school.

The meals provided are healthy, balanced, age-appropriate, and approved by a qualified nutritionist.

This goal is in line with SDG 2- No Hunger and ensures that no children of Nou Zenfan Bois Marchand go to school hungry.

Three NZBM staff members prepare the meals every morning as from 6.30 am.

This year, a grant was received from the NSIF to cover part of the costs for the purchase of the ingredients for the meals.

In 2023-2024:



61 pre-primary school children received 2 meals each school day (breakfast and lunch)

45 primary school children received a meal each school day (breakfast)



9212 meals (4606 breakfasts and 4606 lunches) were provided to pre-primary school children



3440 breakfasts were provided to primary school children every school day before they went to school



Home Visits Program

The Home Visits Program acts as an enhancer to children's education, as it has been designed to act as liaison between parents and the school staff. Three home visits workers oversee the wellbeing of the family, meet the children's parents and make visits to their home, thereby establishing a trustful dialogue with the children's caregivers. Referrals to social services are also part of the services provided within the program.

Support is also provided by the Home Visits Workers in the form of active listening/counselling sessions, mostly to parents.

In 2023-2024:



81 families registered under the Home Visits Program



619 routine home visits & 26 special home visits made



30 referrals made to social and health services



57 active listening sessions provided



The Health Project

The Health Project has been initiated since 2018 as a response to the community's request in 2017 for a medical follow-up of the children of the school, since there is no health centre at Bois Marchand. When the program started, it was found out that many children lacked up-to-date vaccination and suffered some health issues, like low weight, teeth issues or nutrition issues.

The program today caters for the children of the Pre-Primary school as well as the children attending Caritas Centre d'Eveil making up for more than 70 medical screenings twice a year. The screenings are three-fold: paediatric, nutritional and dental. Awareness sessions for parents are also offered within the program.

The children requiring additional medical follow-up are referred to specialists at the area hospital. Each referral case is followed by the home visits workers until completion of the treatment.

In 2023-2024:



65 boys and 59 girls
aged 2 to 12 years



6 days of medical screening
(dentist and paediatrician) in
July 2023, November 2023
and in June 2024



3 days of
screening by
a Dietician
(July 2023)



145 paediatric and
142 dental consultations.
44 consultations by
dietician



3 children and 3
parents provided
with 14 psycho-
logical support
sessions



110 health issues
identified and referred
to the area hospital.
72 health issues
resolved



Effective Parenting

The Effective Parenting program is a Gordon Institute service funded by NZBM each year. It is offered by a certified trainer from the Institute.

The course equips parents with skills and tools to improve their communication with their child. It focuses on understanding the child's feelings, learning active listening and peaceful dialogue with children to avoid conflict.

In 2023-2024:



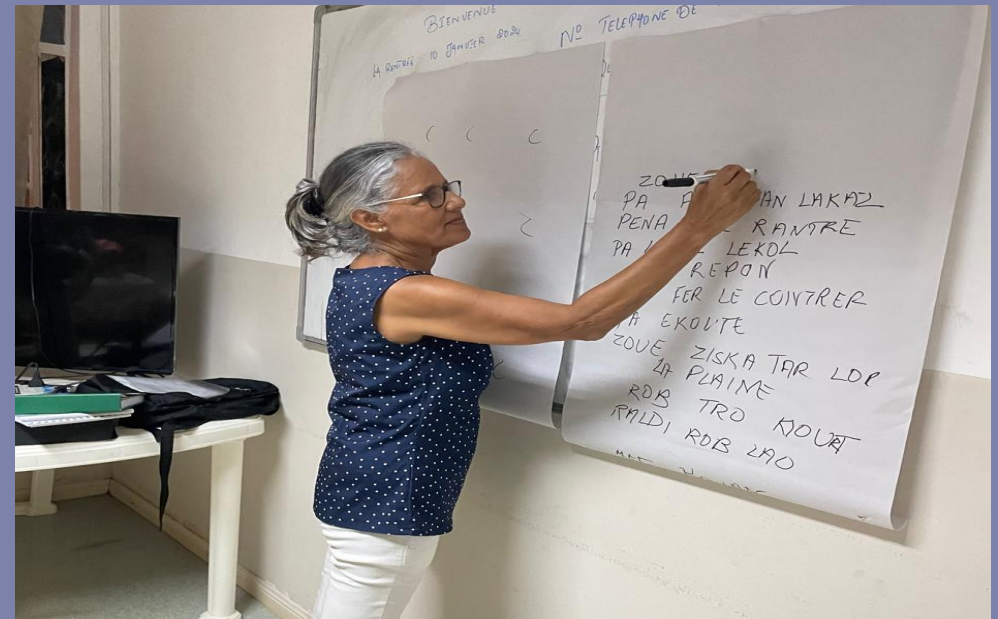
Out of 14 parents registered, 6 completed 8 sessions or more of the Effective Parenting program



12 sessions of Effective Parenting of 2 hours each



47% overall improvement reported in listening, communication, self-assertiveness, conflict-resolution



Chemin Rail and Amaury Housing Ltd

Social Housing

Chemin Rail and Amaury are two localities where families supported by Fondation Joseph Lagesse have benefitted from numerous programs and a new house for each family (2015 and 2017).

The beneficiaries lived in extreme poverty.

Since 2006, Fondation Joseph Lagesse has worked tirelessly to ensure that the families would enjoy basic needs met, by facilitating and funding access to education, food, health and most of all, decent housing.

The foundation built 15 houses with the support of Alteo, Terra Foundation, GML, Phoenix Bev, Absa and other partners.

In 2023-2024, with the uprise of torrential rains, the foundation funded waterproofing works on 4 houses in and replaced 4 septic tanks with new plumbing effectuated by Manser Saxon.

In 2023-2024:



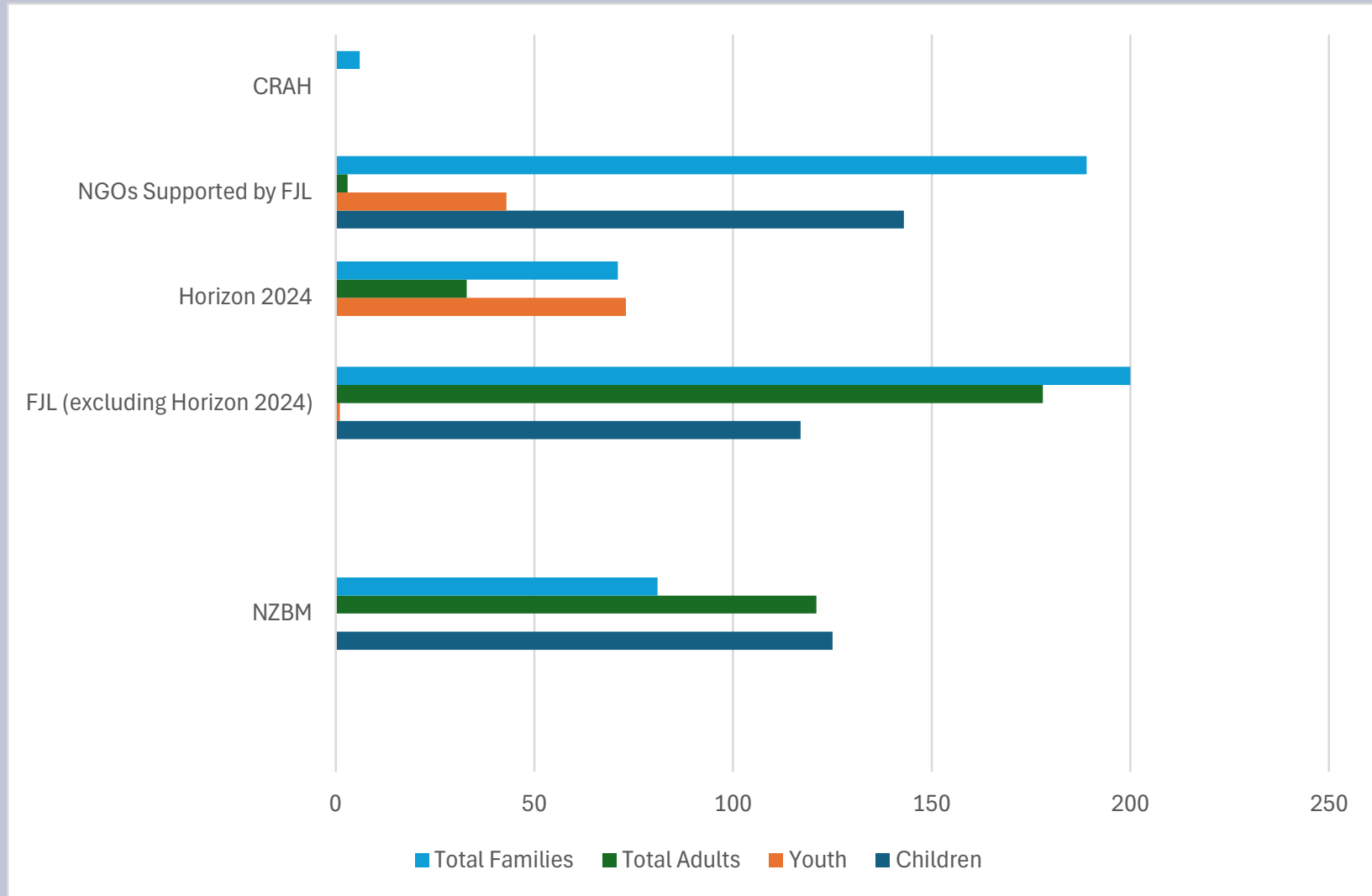
4 houses had their waterproofing redone

3 houses had their septic tank/piping replaced

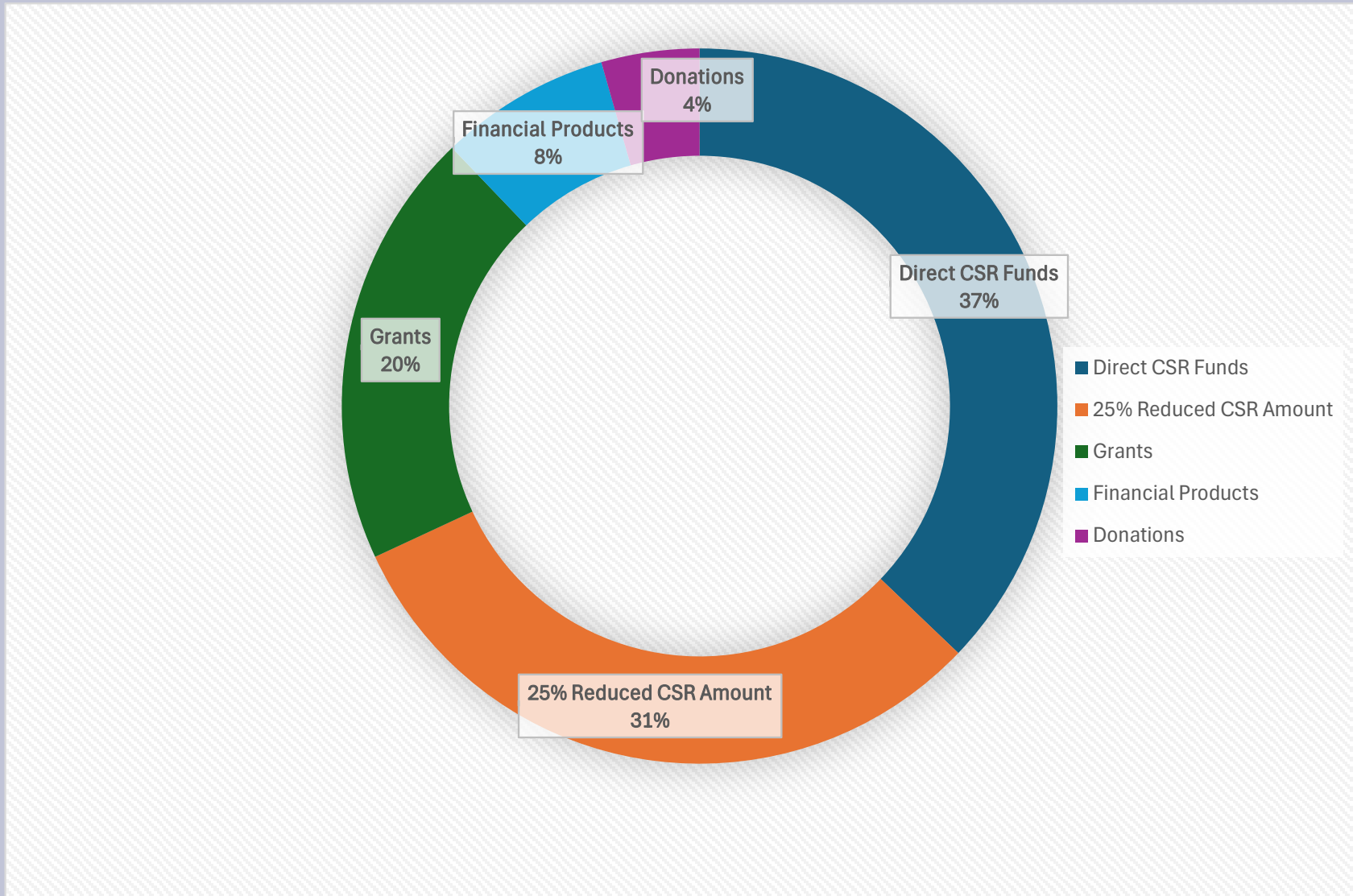
1 house had its fencing rebuilt.



Total number of beneficiaries



Sources of funds



Expenses- Support to NGOs

