

# Impact Report 2023

*Weaving Friendships,  
Strengthening Communities*



**THE TANDANA  
FOUNDATION**

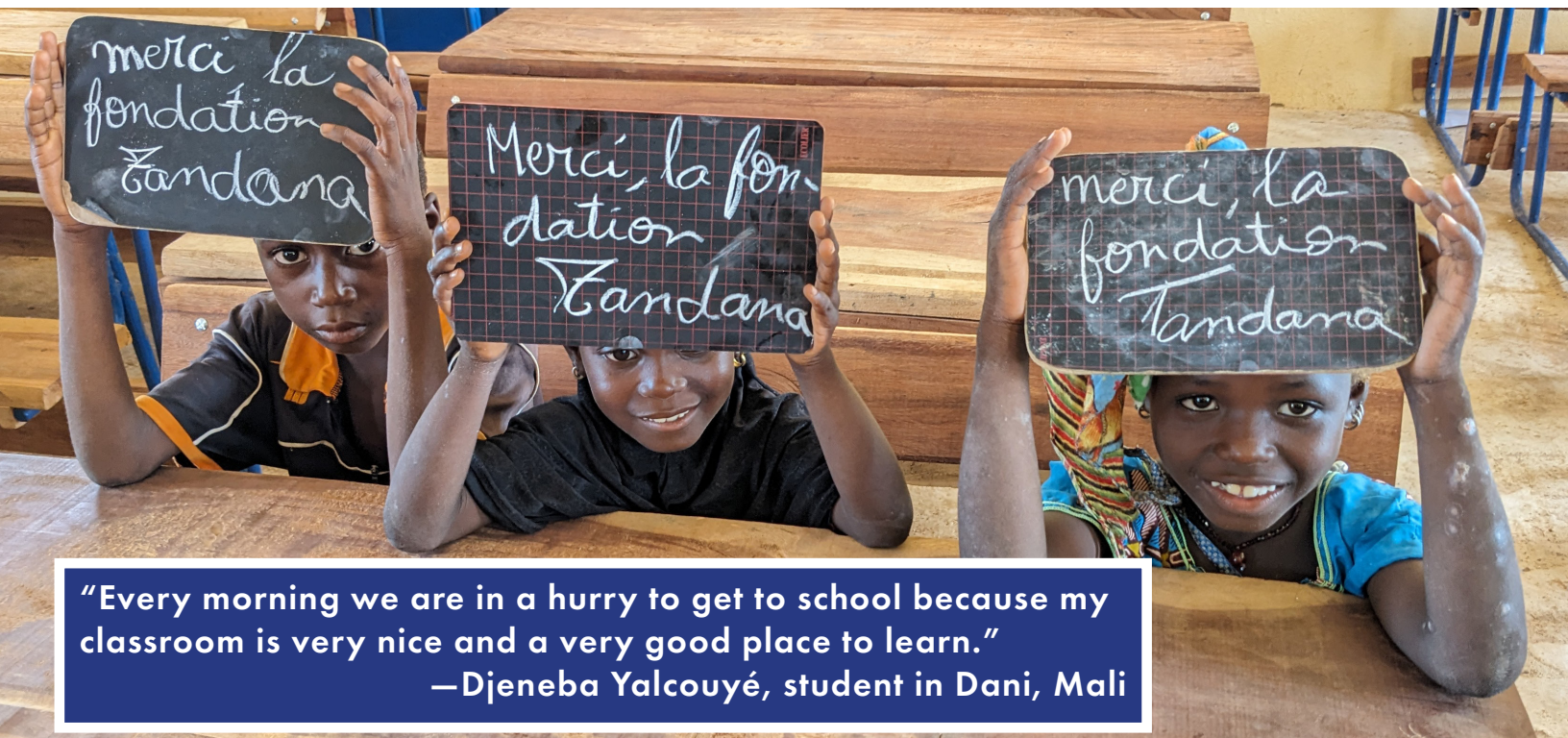
Weaving Friendships • Strengthening Communities



# COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

*In 2023 we were proud to be a part of the following projects:*

- Construction of a new school in Dani, Mali.
- Construction of the second story of a community center in Muenala, Ecuador.
- Construction of an eco-trail in the community of Gualsaqui, Ecuador.
- IT and WIFI upgrades to the computer labs at the schools in Tangalí, Quichinche, and Gualsaqui, Ecuador.
- Construction of a community bathroom and playground enhancements in the community of Gualapuro, Ecuador.
- Painted three murals at a school in Otavalo, Ecuador.
- Built a roof over the Ecua-volley court in Agualongo, Ecuador.
- Painted the elementary school and built a speed bump in Motilón Chupa, Ecuador.
- Construction of a wheelchair accessible ramp at the school in Quichinche, Ecuador.
- Built a roof over the recycling center at a school in Otavalo.
- Construction of a large outdoor cement patio at the school in Cambugan.
- Painted the school in Padre Chupa, Ecuador.



**"Every morning we are in a hurry to get to school because my classroom is very nice and a very good place to learn."  
—Djeneba Yalcouyé, student in Dani, Mali**

# EDUCATION

## *In 2023 we were proud to be a part of the following projects:*

- Secondary education scholarships in Ecuador that allowed 100 students to attend high school. 16 students graduated this year!
- Higher education scholarships in Ecuador that allowed 25 students to attend universities and technical institutes. 5 students graduated this year!
- Professional school scholarships in Mali through the Dr. Ash B. Varma, M.D. Scholarship Program that allowed 38 students to study for professional work that is needed in their region. 8 students graduated this year!
- Tommo So Literacy program for 314 women in Mali.
- Leadership workshops for 100 women in Mali.
- Student Mothers program in Mali for 10 young mothers.
- Support for 100 internally displaced children to attend school in Bandiagara, Mali.
- Summer school program for 25 students in Ecuador.
- Support for teachers at the elementary schools in Yarou Plateau, Andjine, Kansongo, and Sol-Dogon, Mali.
- Support for a music and art teacher at the elementary school in Urkusiki, Ecuador.
- Taught one course for Whitman College, on Gender and Change in Rural Mali.



**"I want to achieve more, I want to be a leader, to achieve my own vision. . . . I would tell other students to continue their education at all costs. No matter the difficulty, no matter the test. Keep studying."**

**—Cindy Perugachi, Yambiro, Ecuador**



# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FOOD SECURITY

*In 2023 we were proud to be a part of the following projects:*

- Creation of two new grain banks in Mali.
- Support for the Olouguelemo Environmental Association, which led the following projects:
  - Created a third tree nursery to raise trees for reforestation and provided training on germination and grafting techniques to the managers of all three tree nurseries.
  - Planted 2,026 trees in a reforestation campaign.
  - Built more than 13,500 meters worth of stone contour lines to prevent erosion and retain water in the soil.
  - Practiced assisted natural regeneration on 19,521 trees.
  - Made 252 improved cookstoves.
  - Expanded 35 ponds, which make it possible to garden and to raise livestock.
  - Protected 1,222 hectares of forest.
- Food support for 100 internally displaced families in Bandiagara, Mali so their children can attend school.
- Planted gardens in the community of Cambugan, Ecuador and at the Saminay school in Inguincho, Ecuador.



“The importance of the protected forest is just endless for us herders, because if we protect the areas, and we build stone contour lines in the areas, in two or three years the soil becomes deep. It grows a lot of grass, so we don’t need to go elsewhere to keep the herds. We can keep the herds in our environment without any losses or fear.”

—Samba Tembiné, Orsongo, Mali



# HEALTH CARE

*In 2023 we were proud to be a part of the following projects:*

- One-day medical clinics in 5 Ecuadorian communities.
- One-day basic medical clinics in 7 Malian communities.
- Community Health and Well-being Program in Ecuador:
  - 616 patients received support with medical care.
  - 14 months' supply of baby formula was delivered to 2 infants.
  - 10 patients received support with vision care.
  - 4 patients accessed surgeries.
  - 3 patients received glasses.
  - 1 patient received a prosthetic eye.
- Malian scholars worked as interns in 9 health centers and 2 hospitals.



"As you can see, my eye surgery was something that was very necessary, and your generosity has really impacted me... thank you to each one of you that helped make this a reality, a dream come true... for me it's like being born again. Your help has impacted me very much and I can't find the words to thank you. I am very happy, recuperating, and all is going very well."

—Tamya, who accessed eye surgery through the Community Health and Well-being Program



# INCOME GENERATION

*In 2023 we were proud to be a part of the following projects:*

- Five new women's associations received startup funding to start businesses in market gardening, selling dried fish, making seasoning balls, and transforming cotton into cloth.
- 6 tailors who graduated through the Dr. Ash B. Varma, M.D. Scholarship Program in Mali received materials to start their own workshops.
- Capacity building workshop for the community tourism project of "Aroma Caliente" association in El Juncal, Ecuador.



"Thanks to the funds given by The Tandana Foundation, we have been able to work, and we make indigo cloths like this model. We then go from village to village to sell the indigo cloths. When we return, we pay back the group fund, and with the profit we can cover our small expenses."

—Ada Guiré, Goundoly Djeninké, Mali



# WATER RESOURCES

*In 2023 we were proud to be a part of the following projects:*

- Completion of a new potable water system in Inguincho, Ecuador.
- Installed sewer pipes in Panecillo, Ecuador.
- Improvement and securing of 3 wells in Mali.
- Expansion of 35 ponds. We provided food support and tools so that residents of 11 villages could expand 35 ponds, thus conserving more water that they can use for gardening and livestock.



**"For six years, we have been working on this water project, and now we all have faucets in our homes. It was difficult for us in the community to do the work, as it was hard for all of you who are far away to help us by donating and raising funds. Now we have clean water for our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren. Now our children will drink clean water."**

**—Violeta Pichamba, Vice-President, Inguincho Water Board**



# LEADERSHIP

## Tandana's Mission:

To support the achievement of community goals and address global inequalities through caring intercultural relationships that embody mutual respect and responsibility.

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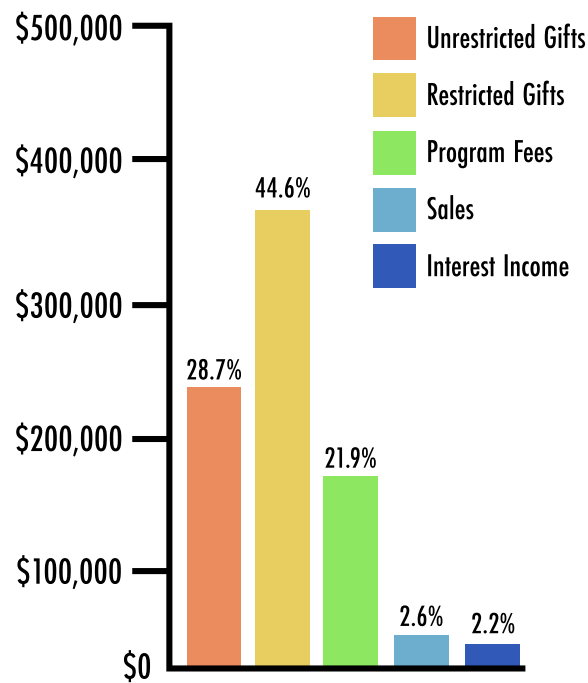


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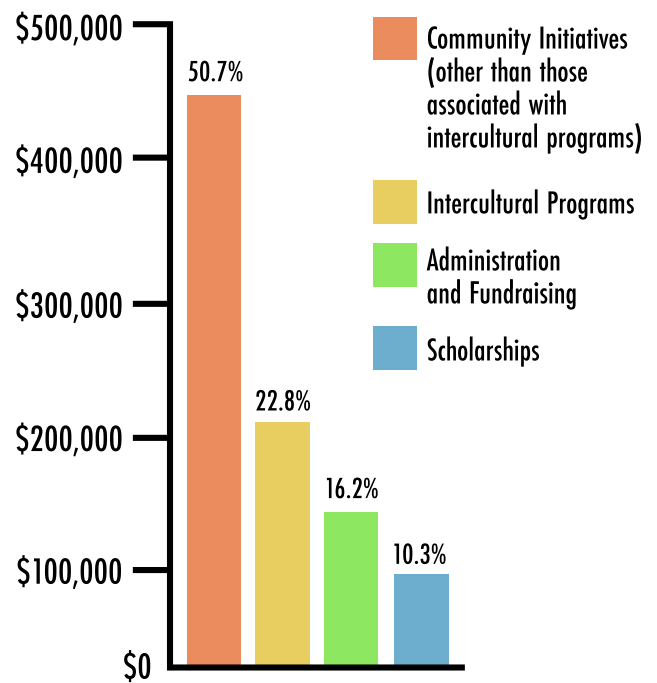
Assets as of January 1, 2023: \$934,367

Assets as of December 31, 2023: \$921,600

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



“Before, I didn’t know anything, and I was blind. At the market, the traders used to steal kilos of onions from me, any time they wanted, because I was blind. But today, thanks to The Tandana Foundation, all that is over. I can now read the numbers on the scale, phone numbers, shoe sizes, any number. I can read everything!”

—Oumou Yalcouyé, literacy student,  
Orossegou, Mali



# JOY AND CONNECTION SPARK SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

In 2023, our deep connections continued to grow and to yield tangible, important results. Through many setbacks, an enduring partnership brought clean water to all the homes in Inguincho, Ecuador. The beauty of more bountiful harvests and the power of dialogue inspired even more villages to join the Olouguelemo Environmental Association in Mali. Clarity about roles and collaboration brought about successful construction of a new school in Dani, Mali. Teamwork among Ministry of Health and IESS professionals and Tandana staff brought health care access to remote communities in Ecuador. All of these successes show the importance of human connection, clear communication, and joyful presence. Thank you for being part of the joy, the connections, and the remarkable results that emerge when we work together.



"I was so amazed to watch the meeting unfold and see that every participant on every side had clearly defined his or her role to play... The construction went off without a hitch, with each party fulfilling its commitment. Since then, I've always wanted to work with a team that respects the principles and culture of the community and keeps its promises."

—Aly Ombotimbé, who was the community construction liason for the Dani school project in Mali and has since joined the Tandana team as Security Guard and Facilities Assistant

"As I got to know the work, I realized that the people in the communities, children, adults, they were all very happy with what they were doing with the Foundation, the projects and programs that the foundation was helping with in their schools and communities. It helped them a lot to strengthen their relationships in the communities, and they all were very happy and they felt a lot of joy... And this will help me a lot with my future, where I want to go, how I want to contribute to society in the future, and how I can help people to build their dreams for the future."

—Andrés Gonzales, Information Technology Intern in Ecuador





# A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



**S**ometimes there are moments in my life that cause me to freeze and focus only on the joy that I am witnessing. When I first looked at the picture above, I had one of those moments. In 2012, Don José, Doña Maria, Claudia, Toa, Tamia, Sarita, and Inti welcomed me into their home. Since then, their family, and mine, have grown. Just recently I was able to bring these two families together for the first time. My son and Claudia's daughter became the best of friends in the time that they shared together, can't you tell? Tandana's mission is: "To support the achievement of community goals and address global inequalities through caring intercultural relationships that embody mutual respect and responsibility." My intercultural relationships are being shared with the next generation, and it makes my heart full. Despite what else is happening in Ecuador and around the world,

together we shared a brief moment of joy that made our lives richer. It's this joy that is the base and the spark of the projects that we support in Ecuador and Mali and what makes our collaborations so unique. It's why the people we partner with are not data found on a spreadsheet, but people whose hands we can shake and whom we can hug. It's why when you visit Ecuador to participate in the work we do, you are not alone but surrounded by friends. Please consider joining us on one of our trips. We would love to welcome you with open arms, and maybe a hug if you let us!

Aaron T. DiMartino  
Senior Operations Director



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**"T**hrough misunderstandings, laughter, and a temporarily shared life, what often begins as a middle school slow dance, no eye contact, and unquestionably sweaty palms, transforms into a beautiful tango. This doesn't mean that conversation flows. It doesn't need to. Something deeper can flow when we seat ourselves at the table of strangers on the other side of the world. A crescendo of emotions that we can feel for one another if we patiently give ourselves the chance to try."

—Andy Renz, Program Coordinator



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# Impact Report 2023

*Merçi Fondation  
tandana*

"It is impossible to describe how impactful of an experience a Tandana program is. It is incredible how close you feel to the community members and the people you are traveling with. It is an unforgettable and life-changing experience."

—Maggie, volunteer from NY



**THE TANDANA  
FOUNDATION**

Weaving Friendships • Strengthening Communities

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