

OFI: latest news of 2020 and 2021 projects

Letter n°41 - March 2021

Cyclones at the end of the year 2020

The last quarter of 2020 was very eventful in the areas where the NGO partners are working. While the Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Karur and Trichy had an exceptional harvest, in the coastal areas of Nagapattinam, the field was destroyed by several consecutive cyclones. SEVAI, with the help of OFI, had to provide food for the population, blankets, and shelter for the elderly.



Schooling of children during the pandemic

OFI would like to thank all the donors who made it possible to fund the teachers and the implementation of distance education projects while the schools were closed. We are proud to say that most of the children passed their school exams and got good grades. Thank you all!

The benefits of integrated development



The areas where reservoirs have been constructed have received good monsoons during the October-November season. Several tanks are full. In January, the harvest festival was happily celebrated in all the villages of SEVAI and GRAMIUM as the crops were good.



In this time of pandemic, we realised that the work done with the women in the self-help groups (150 000 women!) and the promotion of agriculture through our tank programme was essential to overcome the economic crisis. Therefore, OFI has decided to pursue rural development with the large projects on women, environment, and food sustainability.

[See photos of the year's actions 2020](#)

We are pleased to list some of the projects completed in 2020

- ✓ "Water for Life" with Gramium and "Let's cultivate development" with SEVAI: we renovated large community reservoirs, rehabilitated barren land, and planted 4000 trees.
- ✓ "Pink Lady Power" with SEVAI: OFI financed the professional training and creation of 700 SHG.
- ✓ With schools, we have had different projects with SEVAI, DIN, Samridhdhi, Vonisha, HUT, Asha Bhavan Center ranging from construction of classrooms, libraries to assistance in running costs, pedagogy, and scholarships.



Gramium: new textile unit



Renovated Samridhdhi Classroom

2 new partners in 2020

- ✓ **Vonisha Service Foundation:** This foundation is active in the field of education of children of migrant workers in Bangalore to bring them back to school after an intensive transition programme.
- ✓ **Asha Bhavan Centre** in West Bengal: ABC is an institution founded by Dominique Lapiere. They have different projects all related to poor and disabled children. Most recently, OFI has been helping ABC to provide schooling for children in remote rural areas.

Young people in civic service are very involved

We would like to thank the 9 volunteers (civic service) who joined us in 2020 and worked in the field as teachers, Montessori trainers, project coordinators, librarians... Many of them were involved in the programme to support the population during the pandemic but had to return to France earlier.

They continued to support us from France. After this experience, we are happy that several of them have found a job or are continuing their studies: masters related to development and project management. OFI will be recruiting new [Civic Service](#) volunteers this year.

A new website

You can now access our new website ofi-asso.org. You will find details of all our projects, the latest news, and a link to [Helloasso](#), which manages online payments for associations only (no commission required!).

We have urgent needs

- ✓ Paying the teachers of SEVAI, VONISHA, Asha Bhavan centre: 100€ per month.
- ✓ Create as many new women's groups (SHGs) as possible for our "Women and the Environment" project: 50€ per month to supervise a SHG.
- ✓ Continue to develop agriculture to ensure food security with the planting of fruit trees, vegetables: 3000€ for the construction of a small reservoir, 17€ to plant 15 fruit trees.

THANK YOU TO ALL (individuals, foundations, institutional donors, OFI members) FOR
MAKING THESE PROJECTS POSSIBLE through your [membership](#) and [donations](#)!