

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



PROINFANTS

Aasara and Gra d'Arròs, committed to children



www.proinfants.org



Scholarships for teenagers in the Alto de la Virgen.

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Dear friends,

Thanks to our members, donors and collaborators, 2016 marked a milestone in the history of our NGO.

With the help of our wonderful partners, we achieved all the goals set, benefiting over 1,200 children across the four cities in which we operate: Mumbai, Dakar, Medellín and Barcelona.

For us, this is truly a magical figure, which seemed beyond reach, but which will now enable us to continue growing in 2017.

Another momentous figure, the highest attained so far, we allocated a total of €80,845 to the 15 children's projects that we support.

As we explain in our new institutional video and our new report, the phenomenon of child poverty in urban peripheries is fuelled by the unrelenting growth of rural migration.

More and more families are forced to abandon their lives in the countryside—leaving behind their precarious homes, harassed by climate change, the destruction of crops and the lack of opportunities— and to migrate to large cities.

PROiNFANTS dedicates its efforts specifically to improving the lives of children, to really transform them, and devotes all its energies into achieving its mission. Throughout 2016, we visited our partners working in the field and met each and every one of the children.

In Barcelona, with the help of our wonderful volunteers, we raised awareness about our mission in various solidarity fairs and events, concluding with a magnificent children's concert at the AXA auditorium.

With this, and thanks to you, we are witness to the fact that it is possible to overcome the inhuman conditions of urban slums and to grant a real opportunity for the future to these children.

Kindest regards,

Juan A. Pons-Serés
Presidente de PROiNFANTS

WHO ARE WE

WE BELIEVE IN EDUCATION AS AN INVALUABLE ASSET TO BREAKING THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF CHILD POVERTY

PROiNFANTS is a developmental non-governmental organisation (NGO), legally constituted as a **non-profit association**, with annual auditing and a declaration of **Public Interest**. It has a combined experience of over 15 years with the merging of the two associations on 01 January 2015.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Our **mission**, which we share with our counterparts in each area, is to **cover the basic needs of children and adolescents, providing them with the tools they need for their personal, intellectual and professional development**. We consider education as the only asset that will allow them to break free of the vicious cycle of poverty and re-enter society as full members.

WHAT WE DO

Cooperation activities and projects through our local partners across 4 continents. Cooperation activities and projects through our local partners across 4 continents. PROiNFANTS promotes, finances and oversees projects that focus on children and adolescents at risk of exclusion in the urban slum areas of extreme poverty. We provide support for over 1,200 beneficiaries.

VALUES

Our values are **consistency, transparency, commitment and solidarity**.



Classroom of PROiNFANTS scholarship students in Dakar.

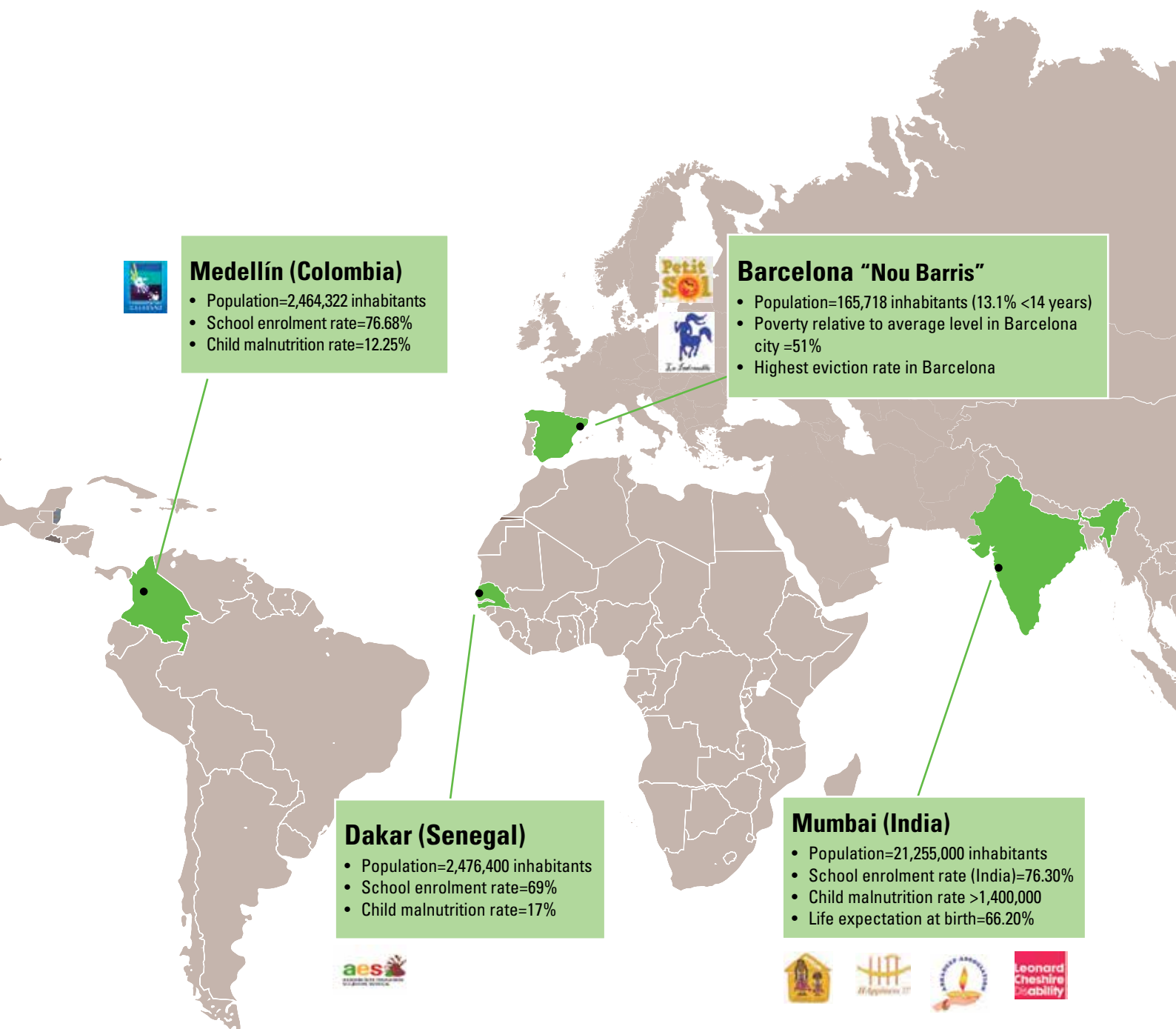


Thiaroye College in Dakar.

WHERE WE WORK

We are present in four cities across four continents: **Dakar** (Senegal), **Mumbai** (India), **Medellín** (Colombia) and also in **Ciutat Meridiana in Barcelona** (Spain). Although the economic, social and cultural context of each differ greatly, these cities share a common trait:

they are all “arrival cities”, attracting large numbers of rural immigrants who often settle in vast urban peripheries, known as slums, favelas or shanty towns, depending on the context. These four cities exemplify the problem of urban child poverty.



WHO WE WORK WITH

OUR COMPLETE TRUST IN OUR LOCAL PARTNERS ALLOWS US TO REALLY SHARE THE PROJECTS



Sisters of Charity of St. Anne (Mumbai, India)

Since 2006, PROINFANTS has been collaborating with the Ankur girls residence, which belongs to the Sisters of Charity of St. Anne. This residence is a model centre located in Thane, on the outskirts of Mumbai. It accommodates over 200 street girls, mostly orphans, irrespective of their religion, caste or community, and provides education, medical care and all they might require for their complete development. Through Ankur, PROINFANTS promotes food and educational programs, a mobile outpatient clinic and fully finances the Dilkush boys residence in the neighbouring village of Gorai.



Macarism Group (Mumbai, India)

Since 2009, PROINFANTS has financed two scholarship programmes for disadvantaged children from the Jogeshwari and Andheri slums in the Andheri East district, Mumbai, through the Macarism Group social institution, led by our collaborator, Macario Fernandes.



Ashadeep Association (Mumbai, India)

Ashadeep Association is a charitable organisation that has been working in the western suburbs of Mumbai since 1976 to improve the lives of orphans, children of single parents, children with disabilities and widows who are particularly disadvantaged and needy. It operates through 7 day centres where children receive food, education and clothing, allowing them to remain within their family environment. PROINFANTS finances, at its Dindoshi slum centre, a fixed outpatient clinic, a dressmaking workshop and a comprehensive support program for children of widows.



Mumbai Cheshire Home (Mumbai, India)

Since 2011, PROINFANTS has collaborated with the local accredited association, Mumbai Cheshire Home, which cares for children with physical and mental disabilities in various Andheri East slums. With this, we promote annual rehabilitation programs, and also, more recently, individual reconstructive surgery for disabled children.



Éducation Solidaire (Dakar, Senegal)

The *Éducation Solidaire* association conducts various educational projects aimed at the most disadvantaged populations: nursery schools, primary and secondary schools, vocational schools, student residences and leisure education projects. It operates in three geographical areas of Senegal and each course serves over 2,000 children and young people. Since 2012, PROINFANTS supports various civil works and primary scholarship programs for the school in the Thiaroye municipality in the Pikine neighbourhood (Dakar).



Fundación Educativa Calasanz (Medellín, Colombia)

The Calasanz Educational Foundation is a Colombian organisation linked to the social work of the Pía School, a private, non-profit entity. It supports the global education of children and adolescents, especially those from the most marginalised sectors of the population, through various activities and projects in Colombia, particularly in Medellín where PROINFANTS has been promoting two projects in the Comuna 13 of Alto de la Virgen since 2008.



Asociación Petit Sol (Barcelona, Spain)

There has been intense activity by the association in the Nou Barris district of Barcelona. The Petit Sol association came into effect as a spin-off of the Petit Sol project to help children and families in the Ciutat Meridiana neighbourhood; one of the areas with the highest unemployment and poverty rates in the city. Since 2013, we have co-financed a food project for children aged from 0 to 3 years.



Asociación La Indomable (Barcelona, Spain)

La Indomable association is outstanding for its permanent commitment to the marginalised children of Ciutat Meridiana in the Nou Barris district. Among its other activities, it organises a summer camp for children from 3 to 12 years who can enjoy a full program of educational and leisure activities during the month of August. PROINFANTS fully finances the food program for this summer camp.

WHY URBAN CHILDREN



Laksmi slum in Mumbai.

Poverty, childhood and urban migration

With the turning of the 20th century, many economists and some governments realised that rural emigration, far from being a problem for poorer countries, could be the solution offering an economic future in cities. In fact, the most important study on the subject, carried out by the World Bank in 2009, concluded that the quickest way this was achieved was when governments invested heavily in and developed the appropriate infrastructure in urban areas where immigrants settled.¹

In Africa, Asia and the Middle East, the urban population will double between 2000 and 2030. By the end of 2025, **60% of the world's population will live in cities**; by 2050, 70%; and by the end of the century, at least three-quarters of the world's population, including the poorest sub-Saharan Africa nations, will be urban.²

The rural population of India, one of the last to stop growing, reached its peak (909 million) in 2015 and will fall to 743 million by 2050.³

This emigration should lead to improvements. Currently, **rural life in many countries is the major source of malnutrition, infant mortality and reduced life expectancy**. According to the World Food Program, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 1.1 billion people who are hungry are country dwellers. Income in any city around the world is higher, as is the possibility of access to education, health, water and sanitation; as well as access to communications and culture.

The main reason for the decline in the global poverty index, from 34% in 1999 to 25% in 2009, is urbanisation: people attained a better life when they moved to the city and, in addition, sent money back to their home towns. Urbanisation not only improves the lives of those who migrate to the city, but also improves rural conditions.

At PROiNFANTS, our aim is to **protect children living in urban suburbs**, as expressed in our mission which we share with our partners in each city, covering the basic needs of children and adolescents, providing them with the necessary tools for their personal, intellectual and professional development.

We consider **education as the only asset that will allow them to break the vicious circle of poverty** and re-enter society as full members.

Malala Yousafzai Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 said: "Governments can put things in their place, they must decide on a new set of objectives to fight poverty: the Sustainable Development Goals. This is our chance to do things right, but we must be more ambitious and set higher aspirations.

Governments are considering expanding global education goals beyond primary education. This is very good news, but it can only happen if we make girls' education a priority.

This is possible. Richer nations and many poor countries have managed to provide free secondary education. That is why we call on world leaders to do the right thing in deciding on the global set of education goals."⁴

Fortunately, at the end of 2015, the UN established the **17 new sustainable development goals (SDG)**, 6 of which are related to the projects supported by PROiNFANTS: These are:⁵

-Guarantee **access to basic services** for the whole world, especially for the most vulnerable. Great efforts have been dedicated to this goal in recent years which has led to a decrease in the extreme poverty rate by



A COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN FROM URBAN BELTS

Comuna XIII in Medellín.

Girl in Kashigaon slum in Mumbai.

over 30 points globally, although in sub-Saharan Africa the reduction was only 16 points, from 57% to 41%.

-Universalisation of primary and secondary education.

Great progress has been made in education, especially primary education, where the number of out-of-school children has almost halved, but there are still 57 million children who do not attend school. The commitment to increase the percentage of secondary education is a key element, as this training would allow better integration into the labour market.

-To end all forms of discrimination based on gender.

Gender parity in education has not yet been achieved in Africa, nor in the labour market where only 47% of women compared with 72% of men access it.

-To eradicate labour exploitation, to end child labour.

The aim of this goal is to improve training so as to increase employment rates with “decent jobs” and secure working environment.

-Equality. This goal advocates for the social inclusion of all regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic status. Civil society must be involved, monitoring and controlling, to make this possible.

-Cooperation. Few countries have fulfilled their commitment to allocate **0.7% of GDP to cooperation**. The “crisis” and “austerity” policies have served as excuses for not assuming their responsibility. Therefore, as developed countries fail to allocate sufficient resources to address the development of poor countries, this again becomes a basic goal.

The 21st century is our opportunity to convert this last migration into a lasting tour de force that will lead to an end to poverty, a more sustainable economy and a

less harsh rural life. However, this will only be possible if we finally open our eyes to the indignity of these neighbourhoods on the peripheries of our cities.⁶

PROiNFANTS, with all its activities in the “**arrival cities**” of Mumbai, Dakar, Medellín and Barcelona, strives to support these changes, promoting children’s projects and the actions of local associations that have been approved of over the years and that so efficiently do justice to its vision, mission and values.

1 World Bank, *World Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography*, Washington, IBRD, 2009.

2 UNFPA: “An Overview of Urbanization, Internal Migration, Population Distribution and Development in the World”, in *UN Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development*, New York, United Nations Population Division, 2008.

3 UNFPA: “State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth” (New York, United Nations Population Fund, 2007), UN Population Division,” in *World Population to 2300*, New York, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2004.

4 Malala Yousafzai: “El coraje de ir a la escuela”, *El País*, 15 March 2015.

5 Fundació Educació Solidària: Information sheet, 29, October 2015

5 Doug Saunders: *Arrival City: Final Migration and Our Next World*, Vintage Books, 2012

6 Doug Saunders: *Ciudad de Llegada. La última migración y el mundo del futuro*, PenguinRandomHouse Grupo Editorial, S.A., 2014.

WHAT WE DO

Our projects are grouped into 4 main areas: education, accommodation, food and health.

To find out more about these projects, please visit our website ([current projects](#)), follow our [blog](#) or subscribe to our quarterly [newsletter](#) from the home page of our website.



Future Little Stars project, Medellín



Student at Thiaroye School, Dakar.



Dilkush Residence in Mumbai.

SHELTER

65 beneficiaries Day centre for children from the Alto de la Virgen slum and programme Talentos Calasancios. Medellín (COLOMBIA)

50 beneficiaries Permanent accommodation for children in the Gorai area. Mumbai (INDIA)

60 beneficiaries Project to provide comprehensive support for children of single mothers or widows in various slums. Mumbai (INDIA)

15 projects

EDUCATION

60 beneficiaries Sewing workshop for teenagers in the Dindoshi slum. Mumbai (INDIA)

12 beneficiaries High school scholarship program for teenagers in the Jogeshwari slum. Mumbai (INDIA)

12 beneficiaries High school and university scholarships for teenagers in the Alto de la Virgen slum area. Medellín (COLOMBIA)

55 beneficiaries Scholarships for secondary students at the Thiaroye School. Dakar (SENEGAL)

300 beneficiaries Full equipment for classrooms for secondary school students at the Thiaroye school. Dakar (SENEGAL)



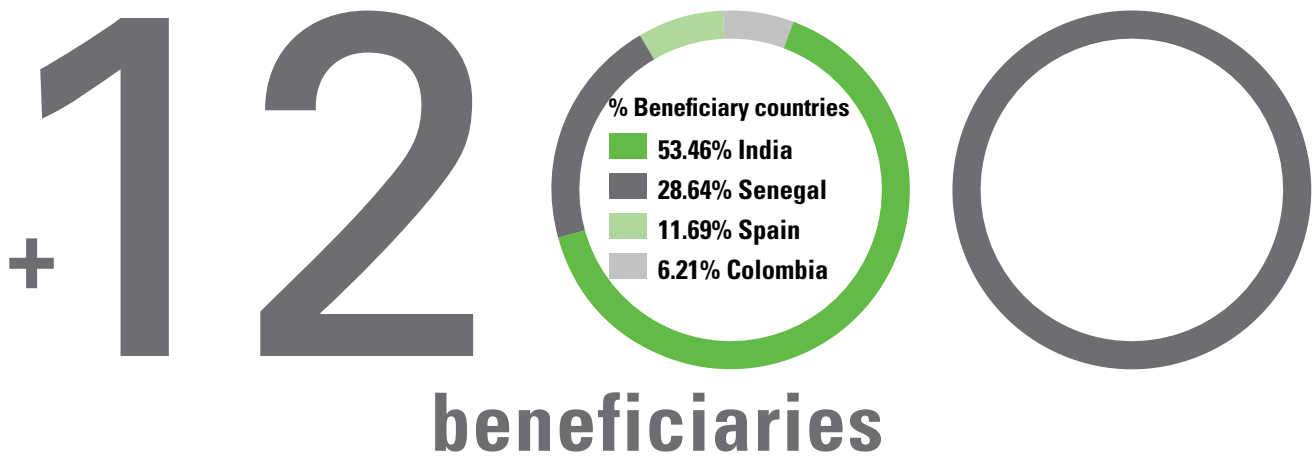
Medical mobile clinic in the Kashigoan slum, Mumbai.



Summer camp in Nou Barris.



Paediatric surgery project in Mumbai.



HEALTHCARE

66 beneficiaries Project for the rehabilitation of children with physical and mental disabilities in the Andheri East slums. Mumbai (INDIA)

150 beneficiaries Medical clinic in the Dindoshi slum. Mumbai (INDIA)

200 beneficiaries The “mobile clinic” project. Ambulance healthcare in the Mira Road slum. Mumbai (INDIA)

5 beneficiaries Project for individual re-constructive paediatric surgery in the Andheri East slum. Mumbai (INDIA)

FOOD

100 beneficiaries Child nutrition program for babies under 2 years in Ciutat Meridiana. NouBarris (BARCELONA)

45 beneficiaries Food program in summer camp. NouBarris (BARCELONA)

60 beneficiaries A combined programme providing food and education in the Ganeshnagar slum. Mumbai (INDIA)

RAISING AWARENESS



MARCH Photographic exhibition “The Daughters of Durga” in Santa Coloma

On 2 March, “The Daughters of Durga” exhibition by photographer Eva Parey at the Civic Center Riu de Sta. Coloma de Gramenet. It included some photographs taken this summer of some of our projects in Mumbai, such as the care of children of widows, the dressmaking workshop and the out-patient clinic.

MAY VI Golf tournament in Vallromanes

On 21 and 22 May, the 6th edition of the Solidarity Golf Tournament was held at the Vallromanes Golf Club. With over 150 participants, the event was a success, both in terms of attendance, awareness-raising and fund-raising. The tournament was coordinated by our partner and board member Toni Viñas; the organisation was excellent as was the team of volunteers, not forgetting the solidarity support of the golf club itself, which donated the entire proceeds to PROINFANTS.

JUNE Modernist Fair in l’Eixample, Barcelona

On 3, 4 and 5 June, we participated for the first time in the 12th Modernist Fair in l’Eixample. Our stand, with the collaboration of a group of volunteers, displayed an extensive array of handicrafts, accessories and jewellery from India and Senegal. Information was also available on the children’s projects we are currently funding.

JULY “Growing up with smiles” summer camp in Ripollet

On 7 and 11 July, we participated in the activities of the “Growing up with smiles” summer camp in Ripollet, for children between 5 and 13 years to help make them aware of what it is like to be a child living in India. Participants played games and made crafts from India, which they then sold to parents, family and friends in a solidarity market. All proceeds went to PROINFANTS.

OCTOBER II Solidarity Concert

The Sant Andreu Jazz Band, Joan Chamorro and the journalist Ana Boadas as presenter were the protagonists of the Second Solidarity Concert that we celebrated on 29 October in the AXA Auditorium, in L’illa Diagonal. The concert, also with the collaboration of Barcelona City Council, brought together about 300 people including members and supporters to renew our commitment to children and to collaborate in meeting the challenge of reaching more than 1,200 beneficiaries of our projects.

DECEMBER Christmas Fair in Gracia

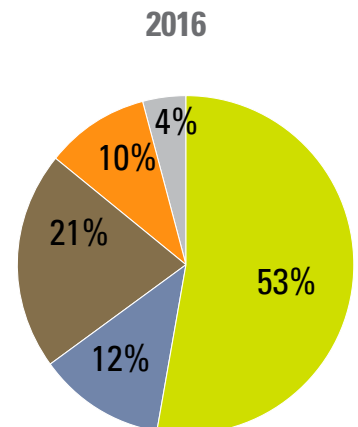
On 17 and 18 December, we participated in the Solidary Christmas Fair organised by Gracia Solidària every year in the Plaza de la Virreina in Barcelona. In addition to the stand with various handicrafts, games and accessories, we held a children’s Christmas craft workshop.

DECEMBER Yoga class in Barcelona

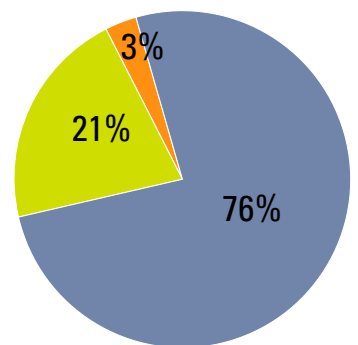
On 27 December, we organised a yoga workshop at Casal de Joves Queix in Barcelona, thanks to the collaboration of one of our volunteers. Following the success of this event, the initiative will continue for the year 2017.

FINANCIAL DATA

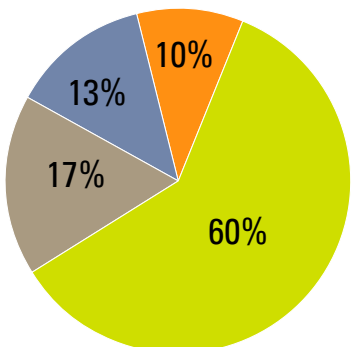
FINANCIAL YEAR	2015	2016
INCOME		
TOTAL INCOME	89,103 €	121,324 €
Members and donors	48,101 €	63,927 €
Companies	17,200 €	25,326 €
Events	11,093 €	11,769 €
Financial institutions	7,506 €	14,970 €
Promotions, lottery, fair trade	5,203 €	5,331 €



COSTS		
TOTAL COSTS	100,575 €	107,155 €
Cooperation projects ⁽¹⁾	76,724 €	80,845 €
General expenses: labour, fund-raising, office material, telephone, audit, etc.	21,421 €	22,786 €
Dissemination, awareness campaigns: exhibitions, events, fairs...	2,430 €	3,524 €



Distribution by Project		
TOTAL PROJECTS	76,724 €	80,845 €
India	42,724 €	48,345 €
Colombia	16,000 €	14,000 €
Senegal	10,000 €	10,500 €
Spain	8,000 €	8,000 €



(1) Both in 2015 as in 2016, PROiNFANTS allocated surplus in treasury following the merger to increase the projects.
Audit available to members

BOARD AND TEAM MEMBERS



PROiNFANTS is organised into various working areas. Its Board consists of the following, entirely voluntary, members:

Honorary President: Ramón Blanch

President: Juan A. Pons-Serés

Vicepresident: Frederic Callís

Treasurer: Jordi Picó

Secretary: Montse Seda

Board Members: Toni Viñas, Teresa Palmer and David Gómez

Our head office and administrative office is located in a premises available to us free of charge. We have one permanent part-time employee, who works in the mornings.

We would like to give special thanks to the many volunteers who participated in the events and fairs, as well as in various support tasks at our office during 2016. And a special thanks also to our volunteer English and Italian translators, among many others.

Finally, we thank our sponsors and collaborating entities for their invaluable solidarity support and especially the collaboration of the boys and girls of the Sant Andreu Jazz Band and their director, Joan Chamorro.

SPONSORS AND COLLABORATING ENTITIES

Sponsors



Collaborating entities



PONS SERES SUCEORES C.B.





**ONE
SETTING**

Urban poverty belts

**A
REASON**

Rural-urban migration,
in search of a better life

**THE
VICTIMS**

Children scourged
by exclusion, abandonment
or child exploitation

**ONE
RESULT**

make visible and tangible
our real concrete support in
each case

**ONE SINGLE
COMMITMENT:
CHILDREN**

**ONE
ACTION**

Supporting the best child
social agencies operating in
the field

YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN IS VITAL

Collaborate with us and change a life. Write to us at info@proinfants.org, visit our website and become a member, or make a donation via our current account at La Caixa bank: La Caixa" (CAIXABANK) IBAN: ES3321000918260200230164 BIC (swift) CAIXESBBXXX



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