

Banlieues du Monde

*“International Solidarity, a New Challenge for the Community” **

I/ PRESENTATION

OUR ROLE

Banlieues Du Monde (BDM) is an organization whose mission is to encourage the social and professional insertion of the youth from poor, disadvantaged neighborhoods, or “banlieues”. BDM supports dynamic local development and aims to promote citizenship through international solidarity.

Banlieues Du Monde (BDM) was founded in March 1997. However, the concept for the association dates back to 1992, when actions of solidarity were first initiated in Africa.

In order to accomplish its goal of international solidarity, **Banlieues Du Monde** accompanies groups who wish to launch a project but who lack the structure or resources to do so. The intervention of BDM occurs during three phases of a group’s project:

1. Preparation
2. Realization
3. Restoration

Thus, **Banlieues Du Monde** has a role of advising, accompaniment, evaluation, and of guarantee through its sponsors, both private and public. BDM is a unique because it breaks away from the traditional model of creating youth projects that consider the youth only as consumers, and not as active participants and initiators of their own projects. The association

proposes another approach founded on listening, the importance of local dynamics and the exchange of experiences.

The approach of the organization is thus to support the initiatives of local development in the North as well as in the South. BANLIEUES DU MONDE provides another alternative based on an active participation of individuals in the “management of their community”, creating real Citizens of the World.

OUR RESSOURCES

Our Networks

In France, **Banlieues Du Monde** is composed of a network of associative partners, including neighborhood associations, clubs for prevention, youth municipal services, and organizations for international solidarity created by migrants.

In Africa, Banlieues Du Monde created its own network (BDM Mali, BDM Guinea, BDM Senegal) that assesses the eminent needs of local populations, through the civil society. BDM's groups organize the welcoming in the country itself.

Grants for Projects

This grant is made up of projects evaluated by the African network in the following domains: support for health, education, sports activities, cultural promotion, and micro-economic projects. This grant permits BDM to assure the appropriate link between the youth groups who initiate projects in France and the groups in Africa.

Development Education and Training

Banlieues Du Monde organizes training sessions, both centralized and decentralized with the assistance of professionals from the associative sector and other sectors. These sessions focus on awareness of the goals of the operation: the elaboration of the project, budget setting, financial research, intercultural exchange, and North-South relations (cooperation and development).

On-site Learning

Actions of international solidarity are essential to BDM's local development projects. The projects include renovation or construction, which integrate socio-cultural, athletic, and economic elements. BDM's projects also focus on politics of health, literacy teaching, rural development, etc.

Cultural Activities

During the stay, cultural excursions as well as the participation the local daily life permits the young people to confront cultural differences. These are the elements, therefore, that trigger the desired psychological shock of awareness and understanding.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Insertion of the Youth

In the North, the youth from underprivileged areas are required to take the steps necessary to formally present their project, including initiatives that lead to their professional insertion. In the South, the youth who participate in the actions profit in becoming actors in their own local development.

Local Development in the South

These projects focus on a durable development respectful of the environment, and respond to the requests of local populations. The operation fits into a dynamic of development already set in motion in the South and therefore accomplished in partnership.

Cultural Exchanges

The discovery of other ways of living and of cultural practices pushes the youth of the North to have a different perspective of their own environment. Upon returning to France, they perceive differently the problem of their insertion in the society. In the South, there is a certain demystification of

Europe and its ways of life. The populations that welcome them in the South perceive differently the realities of the North.

II/ BANLIEUES DU MONDE, IN A FEW WORDS

North South Solidarity, shed light on the interdependence of North South problems and show that insertion in the North and poverty in the South share the same battle, the battle against exclusion.

Co-development and Cooperation

Propose and support new approaches to North South relations based on a real partnership and a development of initiatives of citizens and in particular, immigrant populations.

Insertion

Give youth a point of reference that helps them to structure and understand the environment in which they evolve in order to better integrate in their society. To permit in particular the youth from immigrant background to connect with their culture of origin, a fundamental element to their identity.

Responsibility

Give youth responsibility and make them the actors of their humanitarian actions.

Open-mindedness and Citizenship, To create, through actions of international solidarity, a encounter with the Other and discover another perspective of racism and immigration.

III/ Insertion through International Solidarity

“Solidarity is the noblest form of the Revolt. The ‘Nike Generation’ is not lost; it is capable to respond when there is the need.’ IKS

The **youth from poor, underprivileged suburbs** of France, or “banlieues”, are often considered “savages” or “barbaric”. This stigmatization corresponds to a state of mind more and more common today.

The success of the solidarity work-sites initiated by the Banlieues du Monde illustrates with pragmatism the potential of the youth to initiate, to plan, and to be the **actors** in a collective humanitarian effort directed in Africa.

BDM observed the will of these youth to become involved in humanitarian actions and their desire to travel. These two opportunities were seized to create solidarity and to promote the discovery of other lands. This **tool of insertion** allows the youth to be mobilized in meaningful actions.

The solidarity work-site is thus a pretext to insertion.

The exchanges, the life in the villages, and the relations established with the people of the host countries are extremely **rich experiences** socially, culturally, and academically. No conventional education could provide youth with this type of experience.

The psychological shock, provoked by the emotions felt during the stay in Africa, lead the youth to think about their way of life and thus inspire undeniable **changes in their attitude**.

Social insertion is expressed through self-confidence, **validation** from others, the birth of a feeling of worth, and the will to create a personal plan of insertion at the end of the stay.

- **The Work-Site:** Consists of the construction and renovation of socio-educational and sanitary structures. A site is organized during a period of 6 to 12 months and includes three essential phases to the success of the operation: the preparation, the realization, and the follow-up.

- **Education:** These educational sessions, both centralized and decentralized, are intended for the leaders and the youth. They concern development education, the project preparation, the management of

cultural and psychological shock, budget planning, initiation into the culture of the host country....

- **Project Grants:** The projects are approved by the African network of BDM, they correspond to the concern to respond to the needs of the populations.
- **The Network:** BDM, thanks to its connections, is present in all the countries in which it intervenes: Mali, Senegal, Guinea....
- **Apprenticeship Period:** Students from high schools for professional training go to Africa with BDM to carry out their professional internship.
- **Training in Civil Mobilization:** Carried out by BDM, they aim to promote citizenship in the neighborhoods.
- **Cultural Exchanges:** BDM organizes artistic and cultural festivals in order to bring together the youth of France and the youth of Africa.
- **Actions already carried out:** BDM has organized several hundred projects realized with the neighborhood associations and professional high schools, in a number of sectors: restoration of socio-cultural centers, laying out of sports terrains, information caravans for AIDS-HIV...

WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIVES?

- Promote actions of international solidarity among the youth of the “banlieue”
- Encourage social, professional, and economic insertion of the youth of the neighborhoods
- Permit young people from immigrant families to discover their culture of origin
- Prevent delinquency and idleness
- Encourage exchanges between the youth of France and youth of the South
- Endorse apprenticeship and professional training

ONE, TWO, THREE...PHASES OF PLANNING

In general the projects take place over an average of 12 months in three specific phases

1. Phase of preparation: an average of 3 to 6 months. This phase includes a support for the groups by helping them to define and structure their project, constitute their plans, prepare both the youth and the leaders, and organize training and information sessions.
2. Phase of realization: Logistical and technical support is necessary in the country of intervention. Both BDM and local associations participate in the work-site itself through an active evaluation of groups sponsored by BDM.
3. Phase of evaluation and follow-up: The evaluation permits BDM to draw out the lessons of the stay. The follow-up aims to define the personal and professional plans and involves the maintenance of the sites.

HOW DO WE FINANCE ALL THIS?

The budget of BDM is around 150 000 Euros. This limits the possibilities of intervention and reduces the ability to take action. In addition, BDM dispenses very little money for its functioning.

Therefore, it is crucial for the survival of Banlieues du Monde to receive donations, to always have more adherents and benefactors.

In effect, only the financial or logistical participation of the old and new partners will allow BDM to continue to develop its endeavors.

NOW FOR THE ACTION!

Apprenticeship

The increase of violence, incivility at school, and idleness infects a number of young people. Despite these problems, the youth show a growing interest in international solidarity. This is why BDM is investing its efforts in education to offer youth new perspectives.

Mobilization and Training

BDM organizes civic mobilization and training in international solidarity in the communities. The association strives to promote an active citizenship of the youth by creating a spirit of responsibility and solidarity.

Operation “Save the Ocean”

In response to the catastrophe of Erika, along the coasts of the Atlantic, BDM launched a call for solidarity among the youth of cities. For two months, nearly one thousand young people came from all over France to clean hundreds of kilometers of land along the coasts of Vendée and the Atlantic Loire.

Cultural Exchanges

The association arranges cultural exchanges between the youth of France and Europe and the youth of Africa. In addition, it organizes concerts and musical and artistic festivals in France and Africa.

Actions with the Prefecture of the Police of Paris

During the summer of 2000, one hundred young people coming from Parisian neighborhoods were organized by BDM in preventative actions in partnership with the City Police of Paris.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT IN THE FUTURE?

BDM envisages an increase in the number of sites (34 at present to 100 each year) and a diversification of its activities.

The leaders of the association seek to multiply the periods of learning with new high schools in PACA, Rhone-Alpes, and DOM-TOM.

The association will install a network of specialized educators and street coordinators to promote actions of prevention of delinquency in the French neighborhoods.

V/ ACTIONS OF BANLIEUES DU MONDE

The association Banlieues Du Monde (BDM) works in the domain of International Solidarity and contributes to the insertion of youth through the realization of humanitarian work sites.

Around 200 projects concerning more than 1500 young people were initiated in Benin, Togo, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mexico; Cote d’Ivoire; Mali and Senegal.

Banlieues du Monde participates since 1999 in the organization of business training for the students in professional high schools in the Region of Ile-de-

France: More than 300 high school students accompanied by their teachers have carried out their apprenticeship training in Guinea, Benin, Mali, and Senegal.

SOME EXAMPLES OF REALIZATION

Work-Sites

A work site takes place on average between 10 and 12 months in three phases: preparation, realization of the site, and restitution and follow-up. In order to depart from the logic of “consummation”, the youth must initiate and be active in the project. Since 1997 several associations coming from all over France have called on Banlieues Du Monde for different actions:

CODEVELOPMENT

Plans to create a center specializing in professional training and youth supervision in Mali.

OPERATION SAVE THE OCEAN

In partnership with numerous community associations, SMJ, training center, prevention clubs, Paris Police, Banlieues du Monde mobilized more than 1000 youth following the Erika tragedy to clean the beaches of Vendée and the Atlantic Loire.

This mobilization against the hurricane was founded on the following principals: citizenship, solidarity, and protection of the environment.

EDUCATIONAL ACTION

BDM organized a team of volunteer social workers and skilled educators. They are in charge of organizing the solidarity work sites and actions to prevent delinquency and violence.

They participate also in initiatives of citizenship mobilization in the neighborhoods.

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V/ CONTACT

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VI/ REGISTRATION/ SPONSORSHIP

Last Name

First Name

Address

Year of Birth

Telephone

E-mail

Date:

Signature:

Fee: 20 Euros (for students, unemployed ...)

50 Euros (for others)

- By bank check, post office or cash
- Please make checks payable to Banlieues du Monde

