



2020
Annual Report

fundación
GAES
solidaria



One of the children from the Camboya Sonríe school. Teaming Project

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One of the girls provided with hearing aids through the Speech Therapy project

I. INTRODUCTION

A great idea born in the heart of GAES

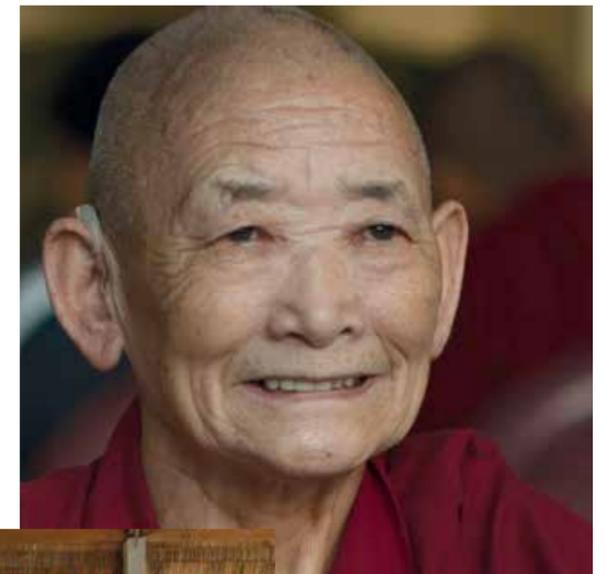
GAES Solidaria was created in 1996 and is one of the most important distinguishing features of GAES, an Amplifon brand. It was created by Maria José Gassó, and for over 25 years it has brought together employees, management, collaborators and customers to improve the quality of life of hearing-impaired persons in difficult economic circumstances.

In 2018, after 23 years of activity, with over 300 volunteers and 650 employees registered for its Teaming project, GAES Solidaria took a step further in its commitment to the hearing health of those who need it most: it became a foundation.

In 2019 it passed yet another milestone with its fusion with the Amplifon Ibérica Foundation. With the combination of the two entities, the new GAES Solidaria Foundation expanded its projects to take its assistance even further.

All projects promoted by the GAES Solidaria Foundation seek to raise public awareness about the importance of caring for our hearing health as a basic part of our welfare.

Since 2019, the new GAES Solidaria Foundation has expanded its project to take its assistance even further.



One of the nuns provided with hearing aids through the Oídos del Tíbet project



The children from the Camboya Sonríe school. Teaming Project



2. MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Mission

The mission of the GAES Solidaria Foundation is to provide opportunities for individuals with limited economic resources who suffer from hearing loss. It seeks to help them develop their capacity for language and communication.

Vision

Improving people's quality of life, with a special emphasis on those with hearing loss who lack social protection.

Promoting research into hearing-related illnesses.

Raising public awareness about the importance of caring for our hearing health as a basic part of our welfare.

Values

Solidarity: GAES Solidaria has been working on social initiatives since 1996. One of GAES' distinguishing features, it brings together employees, management, collaborators and customers.

Commitment: to hearing-impaired persons with limited economic resources. To raise public awareness about the importance of hearing health.

Empathy: the Foundation is open to any projects proposed by the individuals who make up GAES, hearing-impaired individuals or other foundations and NGOs.

Solidarity, commitment and empathy: these are the values of the GAES Solidaria Foundation, which works to provide opportunities for individuals with limited economic resources who suffer from hearing loss.

3. THE FOUNDATION IN NUMBERS

Over **300** GAES **employees** work as volunteers for the GAES Solidaria Foundation.



Over **650 employees** have registered for the Teaming project.



Over **3.010** hearing aids have been donated.



100 GAES Solidaria Foundation **awards** have been given to medical professionals.



Cooperation projects have been completed in **21 countries**



4. PROJECTS

a) Taking part in the fight against COVID-19

In 2020, both the GAES Solidaria Foundation and GAES, a socially responsible company, launched a project contributing to the fight against COVID-19. Focusing particularly on the needs of society in general and its hardest-hit members, this project included several initiatives.

First, the GAES Solidaria Foundation donated **€11,000 to research on COVID-19 through the Teaming initiative**. Donations went to Germans Trias i Pujol Hospital, Sant Joan de Déu Hospital and the Clínica Universitaria de Navarra.



Maria José Gassó, president of the GAES Solidaria Foundation, presenting the donation to Dr Bonaventura Clotet

Focusing on the needs of society, GAES has created a series of initiatives that contribute to the fight against COVID-19.

providing Spanish schools and families in need with computers so students' educational projects are not interrupted and can continue online. With the donation of these computer screens, the GAES Solidaria Foundation is helping to close the digital divide faced by many students and minimize the environmental effects of unused technology.

In addition, GAES donated **1,200 sanitization systems** to retirement homes in Madrid and Catalonia so that elderly residents can disinfect their hearing aids without help from their assistants. This donation benefitted over 200,000 elderly individuals and helped to reduce the risk of contagion in one of the communities most seriously affected by the spread of COVID-19 in Spain. Furthermore, it helped to minimize the isolation faced by many individuals with hearing loss.

Finally, GAES donated **90,000 batteries for hearing implant sound processors** to AICE, FIAPAS and ONCE so that they could distribute them among the users with the greatest need.

Second, GAES Solidaria donated **€8,000 to the Codespa Foundation** to provide medical supplies for the Mère-Enfant Monkole Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during its fight against COVID-19. The Centre Hospitalier Mère-Enfant Hospital was chosen as one of 12 reference hospitals for COVID-19 patients, and it created a space exclusively for the diagnosis and treatment of nurses who caught the disease. Over 700,000 individuals benefitted from this hospital's services.

Third, the Foundation donated **€8,000 to the Escuelas Digitales Resilientes initiative by Ayuda en Acción**. The goal of this initiative is to drive the digital transformation of Spanish schools by promoting the digital resilience of public education, closing the digital divide that affects many students with limited resources, and developing models for online educational intervention.

Fourth, with the help of GAES' IT department, the GAES Solidaria Foundation donated **30 computer screens to the NGO Labdoo**. Labdoo is a humanitarian social network that provides people in underdeveloped regions with the chance of a better education. Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, Labdoo focused its efforts on

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



1,153

Hearing aid sanitization systems donated to retirement homes



90,000

Batteries donated to AICE, FIAPAS and ONCE for use by individuals with cochlear implants



€11 000

Teaming Project donations to #YoMeCorono, Kids Corona and research on COVID-19-related taste and smell deficiencies



€19,000

Donated to Ayuda en Acción (digital transformation of schools) and the CODESPA Foundation (Hospital in DR Congo fighting COVID-19)



30

Computer screens donated to Labdoo to help continue students' education online



b) Teaming Project

More than 650 GAES employees are part of the Teaming family. They collaborate by voluntarily donating €1 from their paycheck each month. Thanks to these microdonations and collaboration from many different individuals, we can achieve a great deal. Plus, those participating in the initiative can propose projects to receive donations. So far, 35 projects have been completed and €186,050 have been donated.

Thanks to the Teaming project, where GAES employees donate €1 from their paycheck each month, 35 projects were made a reality from 2008 to 2020 and €186,050 were donated.

GAES does its part by doubling the amount collected. In 2020, the donations collected and the company's contributions made the following projects possible:

- Germans Trias i Pujol Hospital. €5,000 for the #YoMeCorono movement, aimed at promoting COVID-19 research.
- Sant Joan de Déu Hospital. €3,000 for the Kids Corona project. This is a unique initiative created to determine whether children have a natural resistance to COVID-19 and how the disease affects pregnant women.
- Clínica Universidad de Navarra. €3,000 for a research program on the taste and smell deficiencies developed by individuals with COVID-19.
- Josep Carreras Foundation. €1,500 for the "Los bebés también tienen leucemia" campaign. This donation allowed for the publication of the children's story "El bebé forzado". All proceeds from book sales will go towards research on childhood leukaemia.
- Prodean Mérida Foundation. €1,500 for the "No hay futuro sin educación" project in Cameroon. In Cameroon, it is common for parents to send their children to live with siblings with more fortunate economic circumstances in hopes of offering them a brighter future. In the vast majority of cases, however, these children are forced to do housework and serve as servants to the host family. The goal of this initiative is to provide families with resources so that their children can live at home and focus on their studies, as children's educational progress is often affected when they are forced to leave home at such a young age.



The presentation of the donation to the Prodean Mérida Foundation

The presentation of the donation to the Josep Carreras Foundation

c) International projects: Speech Therapy and Oídos del Tíbet



Each year, more than 25 volunteers from the GAES Solidaria Foundation take part in different international cooperation projects. Hearing care professionals who volunteer for the Foundation contribute by offering screenings and adapting hearing aids to serve those who need them most. In 2020 the COVID-19 health crisis made these international cooperation projects impossible, but the Foundation continued to contribute through financial donations.

- Speech Therapy

Speech Therapy is a project organized by the GAES Solidaria Foundation together with the Vicente Ferrer Foundation in Anantapur, India. The project started in 2015 and is run by a multidisciplinary team that includes hearing care professionals from GAES, speech therapists from the Vicente Ferrer Foundation and Spanish ENTs. This team works to help children with impaired hearing from the Bukaraya Samudram school in Anantapur to use oral language with help from hearing aids.

To consolidate the project and provide it with additional resources, the GAES Solidaria Foundation donated €15,700 in 2020. This donation will be spent on the construction of a completely soundproof classroom in the inclusive educational centre for children with speech and hearing problems.

Free from the interference of outside noise, this new soundproof classroom will improve the educational process for both teachers and students with speech and hearing problems.

The direct beneficiaries are 91 children aged 5-13 with a range of capabilities. Members of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in Indian society, they now have access to a first-class education and live in residences at the Bk. Samudram school.

This classroom is one step further in the Speech Therapy project's goal of giving children with hearing difficulties the same educational opportunities as others of their age so that they can work to improve their quality of life.



- Oídos del Tíbet

Oídos del Tíbet is a hearing care project organized by the GAES Solidaria Foundation in collaboration with the Casa del Tíbet Foundation. It takes place in Dharamsala (India) and began in September 2018.

Hearing care professionals travel to the area to perform hearing screenings, provide new hearing aids and adapt hearing aids from previous visits. They do so at the Tibetan Children's Villages, the Dalai Lama Monastery, the Jampalng Elder's Home and the Geden Choeling Nunnery. They also provide hearing screenings for the inhabitants of Dharamsala.

In 2020, the COVID-19 health crisis made it impossible to continue with the on-site part of the project. As a result, the GAES Solidaria Foundation supported the Casa del Tíbet with a financial donation of €1,840. This donation will be spent on computers for the office in charge of social assistance at the Miao Choephelling Tibetan settlement. This will provide them with the tools to improve the inhabitants' quality of life.



In 2020, the COVID-19 health crisis made these international cooperation projects impossible; however, the Foundation has continued to contribute through financial donations.

d) Graeme Clark Youth Orchestra



On February 1st, 2020, the Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès premiered a piece composed by the Joven Orquesta Graeme Clark, made up of young people who were born with severe or profound deafness and who can now hear thanks to cochlear implants.

The Joven Orquesta Graeme Clark (Graeme Clark Youth Orchestra, or JOGC) has existed since July 2019, when it was created by the GAES Solidaria Foundation and Sant Joan de Déu Hospital. It is made up of 10 young people aged 8-17 who were born with severe or profound deafness and who can now hear thanks to cochlear implants. The orchestra is named after the inventor of cochlear implants, Graeme Clark.

This initiative seeks to empower these children and show that not only can they achieve a high level of language, they can also hear and interpret musical pieces. Furthermore, it seeks to raise awareness about hearing loss and these individuals' capacity to overcome obstacles.

In July 2019, they performed their first concert at the auditorium of Sant Joan de Déu Hospital, accompanied by the prestigious guitarist Pablo Sainz Villegas. Since the end of 2019, the Joven Orquesta Graeme Clark has participated in Beethoven 250, a social project by the Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès. This initiative seeks to give visibility to individuals who suffer from some sort of hearing disability—just as Beethoven did—and to help raise awareness about their capacity to overcome these obstacles. The project is organized together with Sant Joan



de Déu Hospital, ACAPPS (the Federation of Catalan Associations of Parents and Deaf Individuals) and the GAES Solidaria Foundation. On February 1st, 2020, the Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès premiered a piece composed by the JOGC through a series of workshops on composition for the young musicians.



Girls from the NGO Dream Nepal

e) Collaboration with the NGO Dream Nepal and the Cruz Roja

€3,000 for the NGO Dream Nepal

Dream Nepal is an NGO that rescues children and young people from the prisons where they are kept alongside their mothers who are serving time. These children are housed at a series of homes in Nepal run by the organization. The GAES Solidaria Foundation offered a donation of €3,000 to provide these children with vaccines.

€630 for the Cruz Roja Juventud campaign "Sus derechos en juego"

Just like every year, in collaboration with Amplifon employees, the GAES Solidaria Foundation took part in the campaign "Sus derechos en juego", which ensures children in need also receive toys.

f) GAES Solidaria Foundation Award

The GAES Solidaria Foundation Award is for medical professionals with the best projects in audiology, otology and neurotology in the period between SEORL-CCC congresses. This award is annual and is presented at each SEORL National Congress.

In 2020, the GAES Solidaria Foundation awarded €1,600 in 18 awards.



Presentation of the first prize in "Best free communication" by the GAES Solidaria Foundation at the congress of the Sociedad Valenciana de ORL



Presentation of the first prize by the GAES Solidaria Foundation at the meeting in San Blas

