



March 2nd 2021

Covid-19: Implications for *Nouvelle Planète* - March 2021

It has now already been a year since Covid-19 turned our daily life at *Nouvelle Planète* upside down. The repercussions on the functioning are unfortunately still current. The situation in March 2021 is as follows:

1) Project implementation carries on almost normally

The 2021 projects have started according to the established programmes. Restrictions related to the pandemic have been lifted in most of our countries of intervention. The population in West African countries are living almost normally. In the last three months We have even been able to conduct monitoring visits to Senegal, Burkina Faso and Guinea. The situation is more complicated in Peru, where the virus is wreaking havoc. In Vietnam and Madagascar, projects are being carried out but it is still not possible to get there. And to make things worse, the military coup in Myanmar has led to a temporary suspension of project implementation. We are closely monitoring the situation and will continue our actions as soon as possible.

2) Cancellation of youth solidarity camps and hope for adult/senior camps

The decision has been made : we are cancelling all youth camps planned for this summer. We cannot delay the kick-off session any longer, as the preparation period is part of the experience. The continuing uncertainties in Switzerland, as well as those in our countries of intervention, not to mention the major constraints for undertaking a trip (PCR test on the outward and return journey, travel permits, compelling reasons for travel, etc.) have prompted us to take this decision. Waiting is unfortunately not an option, as the quality of the experience depends on it.

However, we hope to offer adult/senior camps this autumn. The planned destinations are Senegal, Benin and Madagascar. And maybe some young people will join these groups.

3) A year of observation in Switzerland

The reduction in our total working hours for Swiss posts will take effect from April. It will be reduced from 440 % to 340%. We will closely monitor (mainly financial) developments this year to ensure the sustainability of our actions. The many uncertainties lead us to be cautious, even though *Nouvelle Planète* has a solid foundation.

We thank you for your support during this special time and look forward to seeing you again. Please continue to take care of yourself!

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Director

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