

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

*Progress, impact, and
Future Directions*

AVEC · LE · SOUTIEN
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VILLE · DE · GENÈVE



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A message from our President

In 2020, when COVID-19 disrupted our lives, few of us could have imagined the long-term impact it would have on future generations. Today, we know that children and youth from rural and remote communities—cut off from schools and books for nearly two years—now face an educational gap of approximately two years compared to their peers in highly connected, developed countries. In many of these vulnerable households, only one parent had access to a mobile phone. Rural schools struggled to adapt their curricula to online platforms, and children endured long periods without formal classes—and perhaps even more painful, without the social fabric of their friends and classmates.

It was in response to this urgent need that OFELIA was born in 2020, in a small town near the Colombian–Venezuelan border—an area marked by intense migration flows toward southern Latin America. There, a young music teacher opened the doors of the first OFELIA library, offering children and teenagers a space to read, to play music, and to fall in love with the arts. Soon, more children and more topics joined in, giving rise to a space where literature, art, music, and ancestral knowledge could meet and thrive.

OFELIA was formally established in Switzerland with a clear mission: to support vulnerable children and youth in discovering the world and reconnecting socially through a love for books, science, the preservation of their own cultures, and respect for the environment—all within a nurturing, playful, and beautiful setting.

Our libraries are more than just places to read—they are intentionally designed spaces where local architecture, aesthetics, and culture blend into daily life. Created with care by architects and designers, these spaces seek to inspire imagination and stimulate the individual's most elevated emotions—emotions which, when placed in service of the community, help build a better world.

At OFELIA, we believe libraries are powerful agents of social transformation. They are true centers of knowledge, play, and shared learning—places that promote the full development of the human being.

The year 2024 marked several key milestones for OFELIA. We laid the groundwork for the first community library in the Venezuelan Amazon. The Canaima Library will provide educational resources to over 3,000 inhabitants of the Indigenous Pemón-Kamarakoto communities.

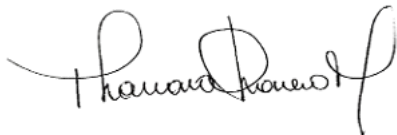
We also completed the renovation of the reading room in San Juan de Colón, Venezuela, and began our collaboration with the modernization of the community library in Zumbahua, Cotopaxi, Ecuador—home to the Kichwa Indigenous people—in close partnership with the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE).

In Switzerland, OFELIA is actively developing a library project for the community of Grand-Saconnex. Home to residents of 152 nationalities, this library promises to become a vibrant multicultural and multilingual space, a true hub for inclusion, dialogue, and social integration.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building a world where every child, regardless of origin or location, has the chance to grow, learn, and dream.

To our donors and partners—thank you. Your support is the foundation of our work. And to those who are just discovering OFELIA, we invite you to join us. Help us build places where education, creativity, and human dignity flourish.

With gratitude and hope,



Thamara Romero

Founder and President

OFELIA – Organization for Education, Leadership, Innovation and Agriculture

1. Who we are

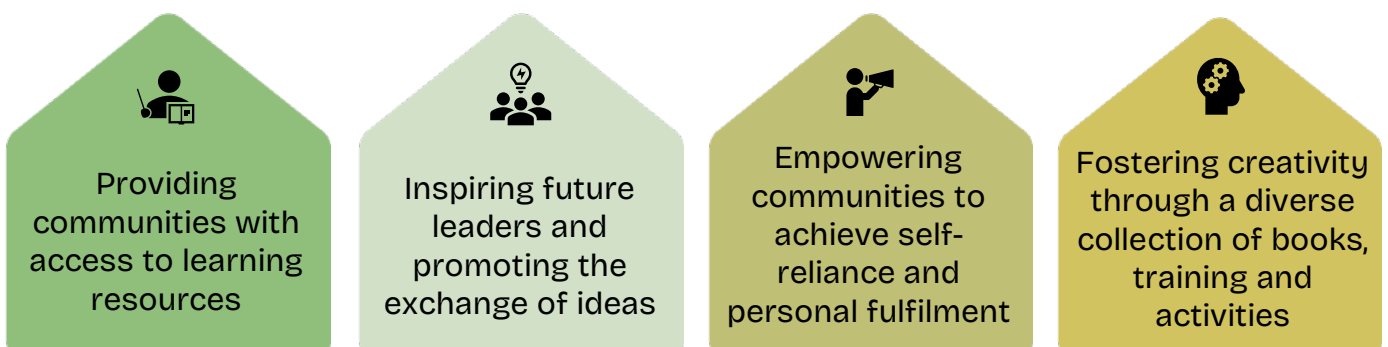
Founded in 2023 by Thamara Romero, the Organization for Education, Leadership, Innovation and Agriculture (OFELIA) is a Geneva-based non-profit that works to improve the quality of life of children, young people, and vulnerable communities through libraries, knowledge co-creation and skills development.

Our Vision

Our NGO is dedicated to transforming the lives of children and youth from underserved communities through education, leadership, innovation, and agriculture. We believe every child deserves access to educational resources to empower them to learn, grow, and become future community leaders.

Our Mission

We are committed to building libraries with books, toys, knowledge creation, skills development, and resources tailored for children, women, youth, and their communities. Through these libraries, we aim at:



Our Approach and Values

Our modus operandi is community-centric. Our libraries are not imposed but co-created with the community: its members are constantly engaged in planning as we want to make sure that the space reflects their unique culture and needs.

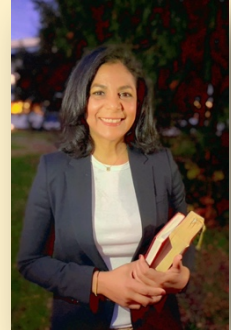
In our interventions we give primary importance to Inclusivity and Cultural Sensitivity, and we specifically target empowerment of women and youth. Sustainability is yet another core value of our projects: we engage in eco-friendly construction, promote renewable energy solutions, and incorporate community gardens.

Governance

President

Provides Leadership, legally represents the Organization and chairs meetings.

This position is covered by OFELIA's founder and former UN Lawyer Thamara Romero.



Vice- President

Supports the President and contributes to strategic and operational coordination.

This position is currently held by Alexandre Soho, a child labour specialist with over 30 years of service within the International Labour Organization.



Treasurer

Ensures financial integrity, prepares budgets and accounting.

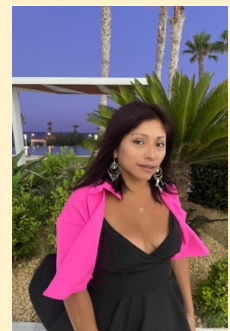
Our current Treasurer is Rolf Rigert, a business and commercial manager with over 20 years of experience in the field.



Logistics and Operations Coordinator

Luz Simeth coordinates the organization of activities, operational logistics, and the evaluation of OFELIA's events.

She is a committed community leader, actively engaged in advancing education and women's empowerment within her community.



2. Programmes and Highlights

2024 was a year of substantial growth for OFELIA as we made concrete progress on multiple initiatives that were designed in 2023, our first year of life. Furthermore, we continued our search for new areas to serve with our libraries, by conducting needs assessment and field research.

New Entries - Canaima

The main highlight of the year was certainly the launch of our library project in **Canaima**, a village situated in the rural region of Bolivar, Venezuela. With our library, we want to provide access to books and digital learning resources, while promoting inclusive education, strengthening cultural identity, and encouraging active community participation. Announced in June 2024, the project is expected to be completed in approximately two years.



Our first visit to Canaima after project launch, September 2024

Progress on Existing Projects

In June 2024, we met with the municipality of Grand-Saconnex to present our project for the official OFELIA Library. In December, we successfully completed the renovation of a Reading Room in San Juan de Colón, where OFELIA contributed by supporting infrastructure improvements and by donating essential furniture to help create a welcoming and functional space for learning.



OFELIA's Public Engagement

This year, OFELIA actively participated in several key events that reinforced our commitment to education and community engagement. In March, we joined the **Salon du Livre de Genève**; during the same month we sponsored the presentation of the book "We All Have a Story to Tell" by Ms. Bisila Bokoko at the International Institute in Geneva. In April, we received an invitation from WTO solidarity group **La Huella** to visit their bookshop, located in WTO Headquarters in Geneva. La Huella also helped us by donating a variety of books from their collection.

3. Our Impact

With our libraries we always target rural areas, which face significant barriers to education due to geographic isolation and limited infrastructure. By focusing our efforts in such regions, we aim to close the gap in access to learning resources and opportunities.

Our projects target community-wide, long-term impact. However, change in rural areas may be slow, which is why we are committed to monitoring short term Direct Service Impact (DSI):

- ✿ In San Juan de Colón, we registered more than 100 children regularly using the renovated library space, gaining access to books and a supportive environment for learning.
- ✿ In Canaima, we are preparing to train three local community members as facilitators, with 33 participants set to engage in educational workshops. At least 30 teachers, parents, and volunteers will be trained in child-centered, inclusive education methods. As a result of these actions, we expect over 1,055 children to gain access to quality teaching and learning resources.

Starting from DSI, in the long term we expect communities to internalize the change undergone; this should spark a shift to a forward-looking mindset, leaving locals with full awareness of external opportunities and an increased confidence in their own means once the project has reached maturity.

The impact targeted is not only of different size but also of different scope: communities will benefit from the presence of a library from an educational, social and most importantly economical point of view.

4. Finances and Transparency

Our commitment to financial transparency remains a top priority, guiding every aspect of our operations. We strive to ensure that all resources are managed responsibly, with clear reporting, open communication, and accountability to all financial contributors and beneficiaries. Please find our Operating Statement and Balance Sheet attached in Annex I.

5. Donations and partnerships

Our Donors

Through 2024, we received important donations for our projects in Canaima and San Juan de Colon, and also for our day-to-day operations. These contributions came both from private donors and from recognized institutions, such as the Municipality of Geneva and the Ludothèque de Versoix.

Partnerships

Over the past year, OFELIA has built strong partnerships with local organizations and government institutions, helping us expand our reach and increase the impact of our work through shared knowledge and resources.



We sincerely thank all our donors and partners for your trust and support. Your contributions have made it possible for us to take action, build projects, and reach communities that need it most. Thanks to you, OFELIA is growing and making a real difference. We are deeply grateful to have you by our side.

How to Support OFELIA

1. Make a Donation

We welcome one-time or recurring donations to support our projects. Donations can be made:

- By bank transfer → UBS BANK : CH21 0027 9279 4064 6701 N
- Through our PayPal Link → [PayPal.Me/OFELIAInternational](https://www.paypal.com/US/mx/charity/OFELIAInternational)

2. Spread the Word

Following and sharing our work on social media helps us reach more people:

-  @ofelia_international
-  @Ofelia_international
-  @OFELIA

3. In-Kind Contributions

Depending on the project, we also welcome in-kind donations (e.g., books, equipment) or professional volunteering (e.g., graphic design, translation, or field expertise).

At OFELIA, we believe that meaningful change starts with collective effort. By joining our community of donors, you become part of a movement dedicated to expanding access to education, fostering innovation, and empowering communities. Every contribution helps us take one more step toward a more equitable and hopeful future. Together, we can build something lasting.

For any contribution or collaboration, you can reach us at:

- info@ofeliainternational.org
- [ofeliainternational.org](https://www.ofeliainternational.org)

6. Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2025

As we look ahead to the coming year, OFELIA remains committed to expanding its impact and addressing the evolving needs of the communities we serve. We are excited about implementing our projects, strengthening our partnerships, and continuing to serve as a catalyst for positive change.

Our Work in Latin America

Canaima (VE) - After defining the project and having met with the community, in 2025 we are committed to training local educators and to begin construction / equipment of the library. We have already partnered with Swiss startup BeeKee to provide sustainable and space-efficient storages of digital resources, accessible without the need for an internet connection.



San Juan de Colon (VE) – This is our longest running project; it began in 2020, long before OFELIA was officially registered, and it culminated this year with the renovation of a reading room. In the coming years, we plan to further expand the Library both in terms of size and resources, while also improving supply of electricity and drinking water.

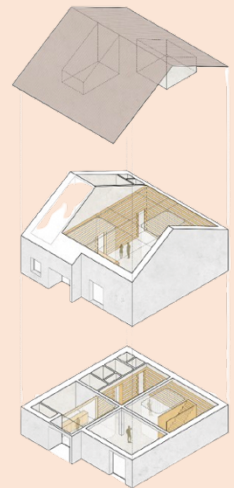


Zumbahua (EC) – This year, we received a request of support from the Zumbahua library and the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Ecuador (PUCE) to build capacity to develop the community library. With the help of PUCE, we are planning to train 22 youth with the aim of empowering them to launch local businesses; once this training is complete, we are prepared to launch a Virtual Library to fill the gaps of the existing physical one.



The OFELIA Library

The hope for the year to come is also to make progress on the 'Maison OFELIA' project, our 'central' library in Grand-Saconnex. We have already commissioned an architectural project and we continue working with authorities to find the best solution for the local community.



Entering the UN Network

To strengthen our global presence and access new opportunities, OFELIA plans to register in the civil society databases of ECOSOC and UNCTAD. This step will enhance the visibility and support of our projects. We also intend to apply for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognition of our actions, aligning our work more closely with international development goals and reinforcing our commitment to lasting, measurable impact.



New Horizons

As OFELIA explores fresh opportunities to grow, we are excited to share plans for a new library project in Cameroon. During the next year, we also hope to build a network with major European libraries to learn from their best practices and possibly share them with our librarians. At the same time, we are actively seeking new partners and donors who share our vision for inclusive, community-driven change.

Annex I

Income Statement & Balance Sheet

Compte de résultat		01.01.24 - 31.12.24	
		Résultat	Précédent
9000	Produits nets des ventes de biens et de prestations de services		
3000	Cotisations des membres actifs	245.00	0.00
3010	Produits de donateurs	3'851.00	0.00
3100	Subventions publiques	25'000.00	0.00
3120	Subventions privées	9'083.63	0.00
	Total	38'179.63	0.00
9005	Variations des stocks et variation des prestations de services non facturés		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9010	Chiffre d'affaires résultant des ventes et des prestations de services	38'179.63	0.00
9015	Charges directes des projets		
4290	Autres charges directes de publicité	-750.00	0.00
4405	Charges de prestations de tiers	-5'742.79	0.00
4430	Voyage et de représentation	-4'229.95	0.00
4440	Charges de transport tiers	-172.00	0.00
4450	Autres charges de transport	-87.00	0.00
4610	Supports de formation	-2'594.51	0.00
	Total	-13'576.25	0.00
9020	Résultat brut après charges directes	24'603.38	0.00
9025	Charges de personnel		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9030	Résultat brut d'exploitation après charges de personnel	24'603.38	0.00
9035	Autres charges administratives		
6210	Carburants	-20.01	0.00
6520	Cotisations, dons, cadeaux et pourboires	-451.04	0.00
6550	Autres dépenses administratives	-797.86	0.00
6570	Leasing et location de matériel et de logiciels	-368.84	0.00
	Total	-1'637.75	0.00
9040	Résultat d'exploitation avant amortissements et corrections de valeur, résultat fina	22'965.63	0.00
9045	Amortissements et corrections de la valeur des immobilisations		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9050	Résultat d'exploitation avant résultat financier et impôts (EBIT)	22'965.63	0.00
9051	Charges financières		
6940	Autres charges financières (frais bancaires, pertes sur trésorerie, pertes de change, ...)	-82.19	0.00
	Total	-82.19	0.00
9052	Produits financiers		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9060	Résultat d'exploitation avant impôts (EBT)	22'883.44	0.00
9061	Résultat des activités annexes d'exploitation		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9062	Charges hors exploitation		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9063	Produits hors exploitation		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9065	Charges et produits exceptionnels, uniques ou hors période		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9070	Résultat annuel avant impôts	22'883.44	0.00
9075	Impôts directs		
9080	Résultat annuel sans résultat des fonds	22'883.44	0.00
9085	Attribution aux fonds affectés		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9086	Utilisation de fonds affectés		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9087	Produits des fonds affectés		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9088	Attribution aux fonds libres		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9089	Utilisation de fonds libres		
	Total	0.00	0.00
9090	Résultat annuel	22'883.44	0.00

Bilan final		
Actif		
1	Actifs	23'245.41
10	Actifs circulants	23'145.91
100	Trésorerie	23'145.91
1000	Caisse	1'561.05
1020	Compte courant CHF	21'584.86
1021	Compte courant 2 CHF	0.00
14	Actifs immobilisés	99.50
170	Immobilisations incorporelles	99.50
1701	Domaine Ofelia.world	47.90
1702	Domaine Ofeliainternational.ord	51.60
		23'245.41

Passif		
2	Passifs	23'245.41
28	Capital de l'organisation	23'245.41
280	Capital de l'organisation	361.97
2800	Capital-actions, capital social, capital d	361.97
297	Bénéfice ou perte reporté	22'883.44
2979	Bénéfice ou perte de l'exercice	22'883.44
		23'245.41

Contact Us

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