

## CASE STUDY

# Solidarités International : financial management with Saga

## ABOUT SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1980, Solidarités International provides the necessary humanitarian aid to populations facing a crisis (either armed conflict or natural disaster). It also supports victims' return to autonomy and development, particularly in the areas of water, hygiene, sanitation and food security.

**We spoke with Laurence Sibéran, head of the accounting department at Solidarités International, to discuss the role of the Saga software in its financial management.**

Within a team of six people, three of whom are dedicated to field accounting and the integration of mission data by headquarters, Laurence is also a Saga referent.

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*Action in the field is the raison d'être of Solidarités International. To manage their accounts, our missions need a management solution that is both simple and adapted to our commitments to transparency and reporting: these are two things we found in Saga”*

**Laurence Siberan,**

**Head of accounting department for Solidarités International and Saga referent**



## CHALLENGES AND GOALS

### Having an adapted field accounting tool

Solidarités International is currently deployed in 15 countries of intervention in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, where it employs nearly 2,000 national and expatriate employees.

The association allocates funds to these missions, the accounts of which must be sent to the Paris headquarters. Headquarters are equipped with general accounting software whose technical specifications are sometimes unsuited to the realities of the field or to the training of local staff.

### Ensuring traceability and transparency on the use of funds, a key commitment of the association

Solidarités International operates thanks to the generosity of more than 50,000 active donors, but also and above all to the support of institutional partners: 90% of its budget comes from public grants and competitions or private funds (EU, United Nations, USA and France, public authorities, foundations and private companies...). In 2018, 86 million euros were thus earmarked for humanitarian aid in 2018.

The association has made its management transparency a key value. It is re-evaluated every year: the association's partners mandate specialized firms to audit funding contracts. Eighty of them are thus audited at headquarters or directly in the field to validate their good management (audit of a volume of 45 million euros of expenditure in 2018).





## THE EPICONCEPT SOLUTION

### SAGA, FIELD FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATIONS

#### **Saga in a nutshell**

Saga responds to missions' needs for financial and accounting management. The software allows you to enter structural budgets (one's own funds) and money allocated by funders for actions carried out in a country, and then to record related expenses or revenues.

#### **A solution adapted to the needs of the field**

The software is deployed in all the countries where Solidarités International operates (currently 15). This represents, for each country, 2 to 5 locations (mission base points and coordination centres located in capitals). It is used by expatriate staff, sometimes trained in financial management but not in accounting, or by local accountants. The software is multilingual and simple enough for these profiles to manage the association's local accounts in compliance with its accounting code. Its rapid adoption is also important when deployments must be operated in emergency or when an employee needs to upgrade skills on the tool. Another advantage: installed locally on field PCs, the software can be used everywhere, including in areas where connectivity is lacking.

#### **Liaison with headquarters**

The Paris head office is equipped with a general accounting software. It is connected to Saga, the latter being interfaceable with the majority of solutions on the market. The head office supervises all deployments and the training of expatriate staff in the software's functionalities. Laurence, as Saga's referent, intervenes in case the teams encounter a difficulty.

#### **The traceability of funds: a guarantee of credibility with donors**

At Solidarités International, reporting to donors is carried out at mission level and validated at headquarters level. Saga provides headquarters with the necessary tools to provide required reports. Indeed, the software allows to allocate budget lines to specific missions, to integrate the notion of donor in funding contracts and to monitor allocated funding. Saga also has several analytical axes for the production of complex financial reports to several donors in a co-financing context.