

Annual Report 2023

iles de paix



✘ Support sustainable food systems!

✘ **We have arrived at the moment in World History where every Human must feel personally concerned by all other Humans.**

Excerpt from Dominique Pire,
Nobel Peace Prize winner and
Founder of Iles de Paix

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A reality to be transformed into an opportunity for changes

Climatoscepticism, indifference, curiosity, resignation, activism, rebellion, innovation, etc., these different reactions each try in their own way to respond to the current environmental urgency.

The consequences of global warming are very palpable in certain regions of the globe. They are no longer a possibility or a perspective, but a reality. Another reality is that we will have to learn to live with them, while limiting their impacts as much as possible. It is then a question of advancing towards a necessary transition to change our models. Each choice, each act posed, here or elsewhere, is a step in this transition.

In the radius of realities still, a double observation is essential on the side of Iles de Paix. In countries where the NGO intervenes, populations are severely faced with the consequences of global warming: rural exodus, food insecurity or even security crisis. Faced with this, farming communities are at the forefront of adaptation and innovation. Families, civil society and local authorities together constitute a fertile ground for resilience.

"*Resignation is not an option.*" This is one of the cries of our manifesto. More than ever, it stands out. There is no question of putting our head in the sand: mitigating the effects of climate change, adapting and developing our resilience, it is possible, but it supposes social and economic developments, sometimes major. We repeat

and repeat it again: agroecology consists of a global transition from our dominant models. Whether social, environmental and economic. This agroecological transition is more and more essential, as time passes. We will tell you about it in this activity report.

To those who question the climatic trajectory that is in motion, Iles de Paix deliberately stands alongside all those who have decided to act for a deep transformation of our thought systems. For more human dignity. For present generations and future generations.



**MARIE
WUESTENBERGHS**

Executive Director

EATING WHEN HUNGRY IS A RIGHT

Iles de Paix works with citizens to respect the rights of farmers, through the agroecological transition. In focus: the right to food for all.

Current climate change poses a serious threat to global food security. However, access to healthy food is a fundamental right provided for in Article 25 of the Declaration of Human Rights. Centered on people, Iles de Paix works hand in hand with its local partners, in direct collaboration with thousands of farming families, project leaders in Africa and Latin America.

Seeds, soil fertility, production, harvesting, processing, storage and marketing are all aspects of Iles de Paix's action to increase the resilience of these farming families. At the heart of our priorities, this ability to resist shocks of all kinds is one of the three pillars of agroecology, alongside social equity and the efficiency of production systems. In a climate of turbulence where food systems are most

vulnerable, Iles de Paix is convinced by the accuracy and effectiveness of the agroecological solutions offered to farmers.

To develop this approach, it is necessary to inform and introduce future generations to global and united citizenship, in close collaboration with schools and teaching staff. Then, it is about cultivating a global influence for the benefit of farmers, consumers and citizens. Political decision-makers, media, members of society...each of us is ultimately both learning and an actor of change.

SYNERGIES OF OUR ACTION

International cooperation

Our action is local, targeted and concrete. It all starts with listening, dialogue and exchange.

Before intervening, Iles de Paix defines, in cooperation with the inhabitants of the concerned regions, a clear and time-limited action plan, the impact of which must be real and measurable. (Pages 10-23)



Citizen education

Our activities, educational tools, exhibitions and reports feed the citizens of tomorrow. Each project allows us to share and understand a new ecosystem. Developing knowledge and nurturing critical thinking teach us to live in harmony with the world, wherever we are.

(Pages 24-25 and 28)

Through all of its activities, Iles de Paix participates in the essential momentum to shake up modes of consumption and production, here and elsewhere.

A true lever of collective motivation, citizen mobilization is essential in the eyes of Iles de Paix. It involves small actions that each person can take on a daily basis.



Political influence

To political actors, we repeat: "Acting locally does not prevent existing globally". Change is needed in the fields, in our cities and on our plates to guarantee the right to food, the dignity of families and a preserved environment. (Page 26)



Campaign

For more than 50 years, the annual January Campaign has been much more than a fundraiser. It's a gathering! Volunteers, students, teachers, consumers, farmers then form a human chain linking Africa and Latin America to Belgium.

(Page 27)



Discover our manifesto,
assumed and committed
www.ilesdepaix.org/manifest



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CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY: A VICIOUS CIRCLE

For many years, climate change and its consequences have been well established. The scientific community continues to warn: the impact of climate change on food security is proven. Likewise, various reports continue to highlight the link between climate change and agriculture. A vicious circle that can no longer be ignored, but must be fought.

The average global temperature on Earth is directly linked to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

- > 70% of global water consumption is used for agriculture.
- > Agriculture is responsible for 80% of deforestation worldwide.
- > Food systems produce more than a third of global greenhouse gases.

Speaking and challenging statistics that certain realities on the ground encountered by Iles de Paix confirm in the following columns.

Impacts of disruption

Climate change refers to long-term variations in temperature and weather conditions (United Nations). Since the beginning of the 19th century, these variations have mainly resulted from human activity, notably the use of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) which produce greenhouse gases, but also from deforestation, agriculture and livestock.

The consequences of climate change and global warming are influencing weather patterns globally. They result in heat waves, heavy precipitation, mudslides and droughts as well as rising sea levels and declines in biodiversity. Numerous effects already observed in the different countries where Iles de Paix operates.

In 2022, 735 million people were already suffering from acute food insecurity. A meteoric rise which

continued in 2023, due in particular to the war in Ukraine, disruptions in supply chains and the historic surge in food prices following the COVID pandemic. But global food insecurity has already been worsening for a long time, largely due to climatic phenomena. In regions of the world where water is already scarce, the impacts of climate change are even more damaging to agricultural production: decline in water reserves, increase in extreme weather episodes, increase in thermal shocks as well as parasites and diseases.

Words from the field

Director of Iles de Paix in Peru and Bolivia, Ludovic Joly points out the effects of climate change on rainfall, with shorter but more intense periods of rain and effects such as repeated droughts and floods. These directly impact production and transport infrastructure, and ultimately put in difficulty the farmer who cannot sell his products. According to Ludovic Joly, the real problem, however, lies in deforestation: *"The expansion of conventional agriculture is the main reason for deforestation. We find the same problem in Peru and Bolivia. Generally speaking, farmers are not always aware of the impact of agriculture on the management of natural resources."*

This lack of global vision is confirmed by several members of the management of Iles de Paix in Tanzania, Benin and Burkina Faso. Abdoulaye Traoré, director of Iles de Paix in Burkina Faso, adds: *"Driven by a series of necessities, farmers sometimes think in the short term and are led to deforest due to pressure on arable land. While for the consumer, the priority is to obtain products at low prices."* To foster greater awareness among each person, all three underline the importance of the awareness raising work to be done.

In Uganda, deforestation also leads to the collapse of biodiversity, reports Lieven Peeters, director of Iles de Paix on site. *"It's also problematic when 90% of the population uses charcoal for cooking."*

And then what do we do?

Different possible solutions to slow down climate change are gradually emerging. For Professor Jim Skea, British climatologist and chair of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), climate change exacerbates land degradation, which also affects infrastructure and people's livelihoods. According to him, better soil management can help limit the effects of climate change, but it must be complemented by other actions.

For Iles de Paix, agroecology has many advantages to guarantee food security for communities most exposed to climate change. Water management, soil regeneration, crop diversity, rotation cycle, agroforestry, etc., are all complementary actions developed on the ground, with local partners and project stakeholders.

Since 2015, programs have aimed to adapt to climate change and strengthen resilience, explains Abdoulaye Traoré. Through awareness-raising, farming families evolve in their practices, on their scale: change in behavior, agroecological intensification, diversity of crops, etc. These farmers are better equipped and informed to improve their production while protecting biodiversity. The promotion of local knowledge is also popular because it can offer solutions to restore the environment. An environment on which they depend to guarantee their future food security.

(External sources: United Nations, World Bank, Myclimate)

2023 FOCUS

Resilience in Tanzania

After three years of work in northern Tanzania, the Kilimo Endelevu+ program ended in 2023, with numerous positive impacts observed on more than 5,000 people. Led by a consortium of partners and development actors, this program aimed to reverse the decline in agricultural conditions and improve the livelihoods of farming families.

A first part of the program focused on improving access to water for agriculture, livestock and human consumption. The installation of a rainwater collection system on farms provided a reliable source of water during dry seasons. With this resilience acquired in the face of climate change, farmers have been able to diversify their production and thus, both improve nutrition and increase their income.

The creation of seed banks was also part of this vast program. Seed committees played a vital role in the collection, storage and distribution of local seeds through physical seed banks. Results? Traditional seed varieties preserved, thus strengthening genetic diversity and crop resilience. Some individual farmers have also engaged in the production and sale of local seeds.

Cooperate in a feminine way

Everywhere on the globe, the place and role of women remains a real issue. From Peru to Tanzania and other countries of intervention, lles de Paix pays particular attention to this through actions carried out within communities, while respecting local cultures.

It is clear that women play a crucial role in agroecology and food systems, whether in sustainable production, seed preservation and diversity, or nutrition and food security.

Beyond training in production techniques, processing, etc., it is also about promoting the active participation of women in different strategic places of community life. In Peru, for example, it is necessary to approach the farming family as a whole: everyone has a role to play on the farm, an opinion to give and skills to bring. The same is true in production groups in Tanzania: these are made up of 62% women and 51% of their management positions are occupied by women.

Leadership training, community awareness of women's rights, easier access to microfinance are all channels allowing women to gain self-confidence, to then make their voices heard in the family or public sphere. Among the Maasai in Tanzania, they take part in decisions regarding land use, crop selection, etc.

So many avenues to explore further...

Agility and responsiveness

Faced with the deterioration of the security and political context in the Sahel, Iles de Paix has decided to evolve its working approach to adapt to the realities on the ground, which are often very tense. The objective pursued: to remain close to farming families and support them as best as possible to meet their current needs, while keeping them active in the projects developed.

In 2023, the Burkinabe team developed a new action strategy with Iles de Paix Belgium. This led to the start of a three years "Nexus" pilot project (2024 to 2026).

During protracted and predictable crises, the Nexus approach aims to create synergies between humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace building. Strengthening collaboration between these different actors, increasing the coherence of their action plans and optimizing the complementarity of everything: this is the strategy developed to increase the resilience of thousands of families exposed to critical situations.

In Burkina Faso, this takes the form of exchanges of information, particularly through consultation spaces for humanitarian actors. Another objective of the NGO aims to prevent any humanitarian aid provided from unintentionally disrupting the dynamics created by Iles de Paix and its local partners. Other actions will be developed to increase social cohesion with the aim of consolidating peace between local farming families and the millions of displaced people within the country.

Mangu Sane*

The right to food is at the heart of the vision of Iles de Paix. It results in particular in the promotion of sustainable food systems allowing each individual to access to healthy and quality food. This vision mainly takes root beyond our continent and our borders... and yet a growing number of people in Belgium are resorting to food aid. A problem that Iles de Paix attempts to address from the same prism.

To this end, the NGO has decided to experiment, in 2023 and 2024, the establishment of a support system for food transition initiatives. But not just any... These are projects primarily including people for whom access to quality food constitutes a daily difficulty.

The "Mangu Sane"* pilot project joins the Food Wallonia action plan, which aims to lead Wallonia towards a sustainable food system.

In practice, Iles de Paix launched a call for projects in March 2023. In the running, initiatives to support the emergence or the consolidation of collective purchasing cooperatives, social and solidarity grocery stores, collective vegetable gardens for precarious people, or even reintegration projects through activities linked to sustainable agriculture (market gardening, etc.). In October 2023, four projects were selected for a duration of twelve months. A pilot phase to discover with its upcoming results.

* "Eat healthy" in Esperanto

360° VIEW

Belgium

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Burkina Faso

Benin

Peru

Bolivia

ILES DE PAIX IS ACTIVE

IN 8 COUNTRIES

THROUGH PROGRAMS
IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY WITH

39 PARTNERS

ABROAD



15,554 people
acting on their own
projects
(♀ 53 %)

These are people at the heart of our programs, carrying developed projects. For example, a farmer who follows training in agroecology and/or receives equipment, a corn saleswoman who shares his good practices to other families, the staff of a local NGO participating in a study trip, etc.



194,713 people
members of organiza-
tions who are supported
by programs
(♀ 57 %)

We target here members of peasant organizations, groups or communities supported by our programs through actions of institutional, organizational, operational or even technical strengthening.



17,626,096 people
affected by awareness
campaigns
(♀ 53 %)

These are people such as peasants or consumers who are informed and aware of themes such as the right to food, agroecological transition, access to quality food, etc. via local media and event activities. For example, listeners sensitized by our radio campaigns to a healthy food; visitors to our fairs in know-how,...



50,668,276 people
affected by the political
changes referred
to in advocacy
(♀ 51 %)

A groundswell reaches communities in the broad sense through the advocacy actions of Iles de Paix. These are people affected by potential political changes resulting from our programs. For example, farmers in a specific region who work in better conditions, because a law has changed in their favor, following our advocacy actions.



Uganda

Tanzania



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IN EUROPE

80,413 PEOPLE
ARE IN TOTAL AWARE
OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
AND RESPONSIBLE FOOD



10,115
students aware via
our animations



51,570
students aware via
our educational tools



71
educational tools
disseminated



Thousands
of volunteers
mobilized

A set of interventions in support of the right to food for all.

For a lasting impact in Africa and Latin America, Iles de Paix develops and articulates three additional work areas:

- > Support families of small-scale producers so that they can improve, increase and diversify their production.
Objective: to eat your fill all year round.
- > Support families and peasant organizations so that they optimize their storage, transformation and marketing capacities of their production.
Objective: to improve living conditions, send children to school, pay health care, reinvest in their farm, ...
- > Mobilize the authorities and raise consumers awareness so that they take part in the agroecological transition in their region.
Objective: to induce the scale-up of sustainable food systems.

To achieve the results presented in this activity report, Iles de Paix collaborates with competent local organizations which have a fine knowledge of the context and share its vision.

Uganda

Multi prisms of agroecology



3,579 people involved
in their own projects (♀ 53 %)



89,667 people members
of organizations supported
by the programs (♀ 58 %)



1,200 farming families develop an
Integrated Farmer Plan



135 additional farms equipped
with anti-erosion trenches



200 improved kitchens (lighting,
stove, hygiene) within households

2023 was the second year of the new intervention cycle of Iles de Paix in Uganda. During these twelve months, farming families began to implement their Integrated Peasant Plan (see QR code page 17). This methodological approach allows them to draw the current situation of their farm, then their desired vision for the future. They have integrated, for example, small livestock, set up vegetable gardens, developed compost production areas, planted fruit trees and installed anti-erosion structures.

In addition, Iles de Paix worked with other actors in food systems: street vendors, slaughterhouse operators, chiefs, local authorities, etc. Everyone, at their own level, impacts the living conditions of farming families and consumers.

Youth: a vector of change

In 2023, young people under the age of 15 represented approximately 45% of Uganda's population. Youth is an increasingly important focus for Iles de Paix and its 3 local partners: JESE, RCA and KRC. With this in mind, 10 primary schools were invited to develop "agricultural clubs", providing a space for children to discuss issues such as nutrition and environmental protection. The clubs have also created school gardens where they can experiment with agroecological production of fruits and vegetables.

In Fort Portal, 45 young adults living in an urban environment were supported in their marketing and processing activities. For example, young restaurateurs were trained in the hygiene measures to be developed during their culinary preparations, some were equipped to carry out small livestock farming and others received training to produce and sell organic inputs.

In the sub-counties of Karangura, Kabamibiro and Kicwamba, 8 groups of farmers were supported in the processing of maize, coffee or potatoes. These activities also require financial and management knowledge. For this, 100 young people were trained in business development and put in touch with financial institutions to facilitate their access to micro-credit and savings.

Diversification of resources

During this year, 246 farming families benefited from support for the integration of small livestock farming into their agricultural activities. Raising small livestock (goats, pigs, chickens and rabbits) makes it possible to diversify resources, but also to produce fertilizer and manage household food waste. Respecting animal welfare and considering low grazing possibilities, these families have improved and/or built shelters for the animals which make it easier to collect droppings. They also grew fodder around their farm.

These activities have produced promising results. According to these families, the hygiene of the areas reserved for the animals has improved, the animals are healthier and their productivity has increased. Thanks to the collection of manure to improve soil fertility, an increase in crop productivity is already observed. As for fodder plants, they are used to feed livestock and are also used as mulch in plantations for soil and water conservation. These practices have strengthened the resilience of farming families: their animals can feed themselves directly and the quality of the soil has improved.

A testimony of success

Kihumuro Pius, a 22-year-old Ugandan living in Fort Portal, joined the program in 2022 and was trained in the Integrated Farmer Plan approach. With his family, they drew up the plan of their ideal farm and set about implementing it. After his training in agroecology, Pius explains that he grew vegetables that he harvested to feed his family and then to sell the surplus to neighbors. With this money, he was able to buy rabbits, enough to build a hutch for them and other vegetable seeds. The rabbits continued to breed and he was able to sell several of them in order to buy other animals. Now his farm has diversified with rabbits, goats, chickens and vegetables, which was not the case before.

But that's not all: Iles de Paix then supported him in the construction of a greenhouse and an enclosure for goats, equipped with a water tank. This diversification of activities allowed Pius and his family to continue producing sustainably. A key factor promoting household food security and increased income. Furthermore, the use of manure has reduced production costs. What he saved in chemical inputs, Pius used to meet other family needs, such as school fees for the children. He adds that many young people are inspired by his activities and some of them have started to imitate him.

Tanzania

Blue gold, a rare commodity



3,176 people involved
in their own projects (♀ 60 %)



97,857 people members of
organizations supported
by the programs (♀ 60 %)



83,210 trees planted
in 8 villages



11 villages in Karatu district
have community seed
committees



86,000 orange-fleshed sweet
potato plants distributed to more
than 780 households

The impact of climate change is particularly visible in the Arusha region, the Iles de Paix intervention zone in Tanzania. It manifests itself in increasing desertification, prolonged periods of drought and other periods of torrential rain, rising temperatures and even a shift in rainy seasons.

To meet these challenges which deprive farming families of their harvests several times a year, Iles de Paix and its local partners, RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA, have initiated a major project to develop rainwater capture and micro-irrigation systems. Families are then trained to collect and conserve rainwater using water tanks. By encouraging agroecological practices, households can mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

Perpetuate water availability

Meeting the challenge of water scarcity in this region takes several steps. Before digging water reservoirs, other activities are necessary: organizing village meetings to mobilize local authorities and farming families, identifying water access needs and, finally, identifying families who will be actors in the development of local solutions. In 2023, 35 reservoirs were built for the benefit of farming families. These allow rainwater to be collected and stored efficiently during periods of precipitation. The water so collected can then be used during dry periods. This helps ensure a more reliable water supply for agricultural activities, by reducing dependence on rainfall which are less and less predictable. Reservoirs also help raise awareness of the importance of conserving and using water efficiently. By reducing water waste and optimizing its use for irrigation, farmers mitigate the impact of water scarcity on their crops and livelihoods.

The contribution of restaurants

Food processing and marketing are key stages in the agroecological transition. Hence, a dozen Tanzanian restaurants were involved in the actions of Iles de Paix in 2023. An evaluation was carried out to clarify current practices and study a series of elements such as raw materials supply, hygiene ingredient handling procedures, waste management practices and marketing challenges. A training was then organized to fill any gaps identified during the assessment and to improve the knowledge of restaurateurs (agroecological production methods, availability of organic products to offer to their customers, etc.). Finally, they were trained in communication to promote the consumption of healthy, locally sourced and nutritious foods.

Supporting peasant cooperation

The Ovegro group is a coalition of 20 farmers who are committed to producing healthy and quality food. Various problems hindered the implementation of their marketing activities: the search for reliable and profitable markets for their products, competition with conventional farmers who intensively use industrial inputs to increase their yields and poor management of their accounts.

This group has observed several improvements since adopting the Participatory Guarantee System. This consists of certifying – locally, by consumers and by peers – agroecological products to facilitate their marketing and increase consumer confidence in the food sold. Ovegro's market share and revenues have increased as it sells its products to local markets, street vendors as well as the Mesula Shop (local agroecological produce shop in Arusha). These are aimed directly at consumers looking for healthy foods at fair prices. Group members have also improved their production practices and can guarantee the quality of their products. This has the effect of strengthening consumer confidence, their presence on the market and therefore their profitability.

Antony Tauta Mbise, a 53-year-old farmer and founder of the group, testifies to tangible developments: *"Before, I sold my products to intermediaries who paid me very little. Today, I am guaranteed access to the market and a fair price for my products. I can now support my family, start new development projects at home and save money for emergencies. I am also proud to be part of a group that promotes organic farming and protects the environment."*

Benin

From production to sales



© Yann Verbeke



4,573 people involved in their own projects (♀ 51 %)



458,540 people reached by awareness campaigns (♀ 50 %)



187 market gardeners (♀ 61 %) trained in agroecological production techniques and provided with equipment



12,598 soy cheeses, **236** liters of liquid soap and **3,493** soap balls designed by women's groups



2,607 liters of liquid fertiliser manufactured by **14** production units

The year 2023 was marked by a relative lull in terrorist attacks in the Iles de Paix intervention zone and nearby. On the other hand, the consequences of the war in Ukraine had significant socio-economic impacts on businesses and families: reduction in food availability, job losses, increase in prices of basic necessities and, ultimately, reduction purchasing power and increase in precariousness.

The effects of climate change, such as rainfall disturbances, also impact agricultural activities and therefore, the availability of food resources. Hence, Iles de Paix and its partners, ERAD and JURA, support farming families in their transition to sustainable agricultural systems for greater resilience to external shocks and better living conditions.

Variety of agroecological techniques

In this agroecological transition trajectory, the Integrated Farmer Plans approach is an essential action. Inspired by the practices of Iles de Paix in Uganda, this methodological approach (see QR code below) promotes the planning of actions to achieve the farm model they want, while involving all members of the family. 740 households are already implementing this approach which guarantees them greater autonomy and responsibility in the management of their farm and in their agricultural practices.

Furthermore, farming families were made aware and trained in seed production. In the 25 targeted villages, 80 plots of various cereal crops (fonio, corn, sorghum and millet) were created. A producer from the commune of Boukombé cites the advantages of using these seeds: they are more resistant to climate change, are better preserved and their production does not require the use of chemical fertilizers even though it is more profitable. The use of peasant seeds therefore makes it possible to increase the income of producers, while improving the diet of the rural population thanks to these varied and quality nutrients.

We observe that conventional agricultural techniques are strongly anchored within the commune of Natitingou. However, they can exhaust the soil and undermine local food and nutritional security. We also note chemical inputs that cause health problems, such as chronic diseases (both for producers and consumers) and soil fertilization problems. Conversely, the associated use of alternative fertilizers has proven its effectiveness both in agricultural yields and in the recovery of soil fertility. Hence, the preparation and recovery of solid composts (bokashi) and liquid organic fertilizers based on fresh leaves made it possible to recover 387 hectares of cereal fields.

Quality control and responsible sales

Farming families are supported by Iles de Paix in the production and diversification of food, but not only that. The areas of processing and marketing of agricultural products are just as important for changing the impact of food systems on climate change. Families promote their products through short circuits, also helping to strengthen relationships and trust between producers and consumers. For this, Iles de Paix and its local partner, RACoLoS (Network of actors for local and healthy consumption), have set up a shop selling local and healthy products in the municipality of Natitingou. Within this fixed sales space, agroecological products from farmers are sold. It is also a place for discussions with customers about the importance of healthy and sustainable eating.

The OsCLoS (Monitoring Body for Local and Healthy Consumption) was also set up to start a process of controlling the quality of products intended for the store. Around thirty products have been validated, but efforts are still needed to market more in the sales area. To improve the quality of processed products, 12 women's groups (specialized in soy processing or in the production of shea-based soap) were trained in the diversification of their products, made aware of hygiene requirements and provided with transformation equipment. These activities of processing local products have reinforced the pride of women who earn more income and are more considered within their household.

**Discover our brochure
on the Integrated Farmer Plan**
www.ilesdepaix.org/en/2023-pip



Burkina Faso

Between security and environmental resilience



2,115 people involved
in their own projects (♀ 42 %)



741 people members
of organizations supported
by the programs (♀ 55 %)



120 tonnes of vegetables produced
by more than **400** producers



8 km of stone fences built over
27 ha to protect crops



600 fruit plants planted by
200 households to improve their diet

In 2023, Burkina Faso was still experiencing an unstable security situation, and has been for several years. This situation leads many families to move to safer locations. But the arrival of internally displaced people is not without consequences on social balance and food security.

To respond to this localized food emergency, farmers are prioritizing practices which, in the short term, make it possible to produce more food but which, in the long term, have concerning impacts. These notably affect climate balance, like deforestation carried out to expand the surface area of arable land. With the aim of reducing these impacts and improving the living conditions of the population, the Burkinabe team and its local partners, ARFA and Diobass, carry out activities with different target audiences to raise awareness of agroecology and healthy food.

End of a project, start of a promising future

August 2023 saw the end of one of Iles de Paix's intervention cycles. Numerous activities were carried out: training in agroecological techniques for local relay producers, training in compost production to fertilize crops, support for market gardening to diversify food and income or even knowledge exchange visits between farmers. The social dynamics between farming families - and with local partners - have made it possible to develop everyone's skills according to the values of respect, solidarity, responsibility and trust.

Convincing results are emerging from the program, as illustrated by the testimony of a producer from the commune of Goughnin: *"I produced vegetables on a small area (approximately 200 m²) and I used compost. At first I thought it was just going to be enough for my consumption. Finally, I got more than 100,000 FCFA (around €150) from it for the year 2023 in addition to my family consumption. Thanks to the revenue obtained, I was able to take care of the children's schooling, health problems, buy some small ruminants and meet other family needs."*

Furthermore, we note that peasant women participated massively in project activities, especially when they took place in the village, thus making it possible to combine them with daily tasks. Thus, 160 women (out of a total of 353 people) were trained in ecological market garden production techniques in the rainy season. A knowledge exchange trip between farmers was also organized for 30 participants, half of whom were women farmers. Some of them were congratulated for the quality of their implementation of agroecological techniques. Along with other producers, they were rewarded during the "Best Producer Competition" and received equipment to reduce the arduousness of certain tasks.

Collective research

Participatory action research was favored to strengthen the resilience of the rural population in the face of climate change. Carrying out actions at the local level, the villagers of the communes of Kando and Koupéla came together to share their observations, their traditional peasant knowledge and modern scientific knowledge. Hence, 16 action research groups composed of 10 to 15 members were created and trained in the principles of this method making it possible to target a specific problem and seek concrete solutions.

Awareness for young and old

The issue of climate change does not only concern farmers. Awareness-raising actions aimed at the general public have also been put in place to challenge the populations of Koupéla and surrounding areas on the need to adapt their habits to protect the environment. During the World Climate Day, around thirty people participated in a workshop on the resilience of producers in the face of climate change, drawing on the potential of farmers' seeds. A female producer from the commune of Kando points out: *"We were never told that the researchers started from the traditional seeds that we had to make the new seeds that are popularized. As a result, we have neglected these traditional seeds to the point of losing a good part of them. This workshop opened our eyes to our seeds."* An information radio program on climate issues was also broadcast on this occasion. In addition, during the World Environment Day, symbolic reforestation took place at the Kourita High School in Koupéla. This made it possible to raise awareness among 115 students of the importance of reforestation in the Sahel countries.

Bolivia

Climatic hazards in urban areas



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512 people involved in their own projects (♀ 59 %)



2,094 people members of organizations supported by programs (♀ 62 %)



157 producers reinforced in their agroecological production techniques (biological inputs, fight against diseases and pests, ...)



100 producers supported in the Participative Guarantee System process



47 producers have improved their skills in the traditional processing of fresh products (♀ 81 %)

Of all the countries of Latin America, Bolivia is the most affected by extreme weather phenomena, in particular by floods, forest fires and intense droughts. These climatic phenomena raise many questions in terms of food and nutritional security of rural and urban populations. In 2023, the most important concern is still related to the drought which affected around 85 % of the country's municipalities.

To respond to this problem, Iles de Paix launched in 2022 an intervention in Cochabamba with a local partner: Agrecol Andes. We are supporting families of urban and peri-urban farmers in their retraining towards sustainable food systems. Different activities of agroecological production, marketing and awareness are hence carried out with and by these families.

Necessary innovations

The results obtained in Bolivia are already promising following this second year of program. A total of 418 people are supported directly by Iles de Paix; whether farmers, consumers or local authorities. Among them, 157 producers have strengthened their agroecological skills and contributed to developing peri-urban agriculture. They hence created 29 rainwater recovery systems in order to irrigate the crops affected by extreme drought. No less than 17 greenhouses were built to protect the market gardening from rains and pests. Thanks to an active female participation during the activities carried out (77 % of those involved in the project are women), the peasants have reached a high degree of empowerment and a revaluation of the role played by each of them in their families.

Promotion of local seeds

Although it is an essential need, Bolivia is dependent on the importation of seeds, especially those intended for market gardening. Between 2022 and 2023, their price has increased sharply and they became rare in the local market. In this context, it was important to gain autonomy and develop accessible mechanisms for their supply. Hence, a process of identifying peasant families preserving and reproducing local seeds has been set up. On this basis, seven seed banks have been developed allowing around thirty families to get their supplies. In the future, other means of access to inputs, in particular seeds, will have to be considered to guarantee their long-term availability.

Win consumer confidence

To guarantee the development of sustainable food systems, marketing is an essential step. To do this, short circuits are favored and the relationship between producers and consumers is reinforced. Concretely, a new point of sale and a restaurant promoting local and agroecological products have been opened in the city of Cochabamba. The organization of the "Féria Sabatina", a weekly market organized in collaboration with Iles de Paix, allows many peasant families to sell their production and live from their profession. A hundred of them were also supported in the certification process of the Participative Guarantee System, a certification which strengthens confidence between producers and consumers. Further in this area of confidence and transparency, 163 consumers (including 121 women) participated in "field visits" to meet peasant families and learn more about their profession.

Advocacy for the agroecological transition

The mobilization of local governments is a major issue. Indeed, local authorities have a preponderant role in promoting the transition to agroecology. But they (in particular small municipalities) have few public resources for agroecological production. This is explained by the fact that on average, only 1 % of the national budget is devoted to the development of production. This is why Iles de Paix and its local partners have the strategy of strengthening the capacities of peasant families to defend their interests and their proposals, to meet the municipal authorities and to express their needs directly. This strategy notably made it possible to obtain public funds for the development of food fairs.

Peru

Awareness, a transitional vector



© Yann Verbeke



1,599 people involved in
on their own projects (♀ 52 %)



4,354 people members
of organizations supported
by programs (♀ 53 %)



Organization of **11** culinary
demonstrations for
producer groups



14 local groups sensitized and
trained in gender, via functional
workshops and exchanges of
experiences



882 technical assistance
and monitoring visits to farmers
benefiting from the program

Peasant families are not always aware of the impact of their agricultural activities on the environment. Indeed, food crops need natural resources, which encourages practices such as the over-exploitation of these resources and deforestation (little framed in a legislative manner). In turn, deforestation itself causes worrying natural phenomena that have significant repercussions on ecosystems (deadly and destructive mudslides, loss of biodiversity, migration of species, pollution), on agricultural activities of rural populations and on local communities.

To respond to this situation, Iles de Paix and its partners carry out awareness-raising actions with farming families and the population of the Huánuco region. A required awareness necessary of the consequences of their agricultural practices and their food choices.

Knowledge sharing

Faced with the gap between the rural and urban world in Peru, the strengthening of relations between peasants and consumers remains a significant challenge. In 2023, Iles de Paix and its local partners, IDEL, IDMA and IDPP, organized 10 consumer visits in agroecological farms. Although intensive in energy and resources use, these visits have a very important impact on strengthening consumer confidence in farmers on the one hand, and in agroecological products on the other hand. These exchanges in the farm also grow the self-confidence of peasants, a factor not to be overlooked. Another benefit of these visits: the strengthening of local consumer networks. The 284 visitors have hence become awareness agents, in turn motivating their neighbors to support the production and consumption of these products. The visits also make it possible to inform everyone of what is hidden behind the conventional foods available in the markets and supermarkets (chemical residues, impact of transport, external causalities for the environment, etc.).

The importance of the Puntos Verdes

In 2023, the awareness of farmers was developed in two stages. First of all, sustainable production activities allowed the creation of fruit and forestry nurseries, the development of small breeding (guinea pigs, sheep and pigs) as well as technical and theoretical training. A farmer testifies to her enthusiasm following the growth of her agroecological production: she began to work with Iles de Paix and her partners on the family farm which is managed by her father and brother. She embarked on this method of sustainable production, alone, on a small plot of the farm. Her father and brother were a little reluctant and did not want to embark on this path. Nevertheless, by noticing the results obtained, they gradually got involved. Currently, a larger part of the family farm is cultivated with agroecological techniques. This young farmer

hopes that in the long term, the entire production of the farm will be cultivated in this way.

Then, supporting the marketing of their agroecological products has strengthened the knowledge of peasant families in terms of access to markets and financial profitability of their farm. Local sales are central to the commercial strategy of their production, three Puntos Verdes have been improved and a new sales area has been set up in the municipality of Chullqui. Cynthia Santillán, collaborator of a local partner in Iles de Paix, explains that the Puntos Verdes sell agroecological products, but also constitute a space for solidarity and exchanges between consumers and producers. In 2023, it was thanks, among other things, to these points of sale that the demand for agroecological products increased, which tends to prove that the strategy works.

Improvement of living conditions

Improving the living conditions of peasant families is an objective that continued in 2023. This affected different areas of daily lives. Hence, local groups of peasants attended 11 culinary demonstrations. In the end, 103 families improved their kitchen space and household waste treatment procedures have improved the health of living spaces. Micro-discharges and recycling areas have also been developed: 32 inorganic waste recycling modules (glass, plastic, paper) were installed in the Huánuco region.

To improve access to drinking water, Iles de Paix worked with communities to rehabilitate drinking water networks. In total, 13 management boards have been strengthened to guarantee the proper functioning of sanitation services. No less than 13 drinking water supply systems have been rehabilitated, in collaboration with 5 partner municipalities.

Belgium



AWARENESS

Between strength growth and adaptations

In Belgium, the Education Program for Global and Solidarity Citizenship is working to raise awareness and mobilization of children, young people and the general public. The issues covered are sustainable family farming, responsible food, and more broadly, global and united citizenship.

The school projects of the year 2023 were mainly marked by the implementation of the reform of school rhythms which resulted in changes in animations requests. Also to underline, the dissemination of new standards for the 3rd and 4th primary levels (common trunk) as well as the evolution of teachers

and departments priorities due to the reform. In this context, Iles de Paix adapted to these changes to remain relevant.

Specific activities and projects

The year 2023 signed the "return to normal" after the pandemic. In total, 398 animation sessions were carried out with 10,953 students. This is an increase of 21 % compared to 2022.

Beyond this massive success, a quality approach remains more than ever required, with increasingly specific animations, supervision by a duo of animators, smaller groups and collaboration with the teaching staff.

At the top of the podium, there are successful animations such as "Kilimo" (online card game where students embody a farmer in East Africa to make their farm more resilient), or, "Delta Meeting Caro" (role playing game centered on interculturality realities and stereotypes). In addition, other activities have been deployed in specific projects: hence, 5 projects were carried out in 2023 in collaboration with 15 schools, involving 705 students and 60 teachers. This is the case with the "CLAP Hunger: Schools Act!", started in 2022 in collaboration with the Adoc Theater Company. As part of this project, the play "Nourish humanity - Act 2" was presented to students, accompanied by thematic workshops and group activities to develop understanding of food systems.

Continuously enriched teaching tools

To identify relevant themes, to deal with them with care to make them accessible to students of different school levels and to innovate in methods to raise interest: this is the challenge to offer quality educational tools.

In 2023, were published the new format of the citizenship calendar (a weekly calendar that has become perpetual), a folder of Jeremy and Jhouli exercises (in addition to the "Dos Hermanos" report for primary schools and documentary files to accompany the "¿Más?" report for secondary school). In total, 47 educational tools were offered in paper format, to which 24 digital tools are added (such as the *Somo Raia* course sheets, interactive stories and inverted classes) and 12 files published in the *Children's Journal*, available also for download.



Open curiosity to lifestyles here and elsewhere

The report "¿Más?" is a novelty in the educational resources of Iles de Paix. Shot in the Peruvian mountains, it shows that, in this region, peasants are already on the way to the agroecological transition.

Thanks to more sustainable production techniques and the sale of their products in local markets, they fight at their level against hunger. They set up solutions that promote for all, the transition to a healthier and more durable diet.

A reporter folder was designed as a support to stimulate students' reflection: what is industrial agriculture in Peru like? How does a family of Peruvian farmers who have decided to adopt sustainable agricultural practices live? What role do they play in providing access to sustainable food to people in their region?

View
the *¿Más?* report

www.ilesdepaix.org/en/2023-mas



ADVOCACY AND CAPITALIZATION

Between current crises and future perspectives

Political leaders are in front of issues at different speeds. It is a question of compensating for the urgency imposed by current crises (climate, economic, humanitarian, etc.) but also of starting the existential transition of our production and consumption models. Responding to short-term concerns while setting up long-term changes is a delicate exercise, and temptation is great to forget the second for the first.

The plea message of Iles de Paix focuses on the need for public authorities to support the agroecological transformation of agricultural and food systems. Objective: to ensure the right of the population for food in compliance with the rights of peasant families. The systemic aspect of agroecology gives it an important transformer potential, which can only be achieved with the active involvement of the public authorities.

For the end of prohibited pesticides

The cessation of the use of synthetic inputs, including pesticides, harmful to the environment and human health, is one of the principles of agroecology. The end of the export of pesticides produced and prohibited in Belgium therefore constitutes a concern for Iles de Paix. This campaign began in 2022 on the initiative of a coalition of Belgian civil society organizations, of which is part Iles de Paix.

In 2023, several ministerial offices were met to discuss the problem and a royal prohibition decree was adopted in June. The success of this campaign was based on

different factors: the concordance between the ideas conveyed by the campaign and the political agenda of the moment; the mobilizing character of the campaign which made it possible to constitute a dynamic collective; the involvement of the media publishing convincing data (resulting from a preliminary study) and the relevance of the messages carried at the level of elected officials and political parties.

Reading: "Phosphore"

This collection of publications, produced in coalition with Humundi and Autre Terre, makes it possible to understand and analyze current political discourses relating to agrarian and food systems.

The first issue of the collection "Should we intensify agriculture in the name of the environment?" was produced in November 2022. In 2023, it was the subject of a conference co-organized by Iles de Paix and the international partnerships service of the European Commission, involving the Biovision Foundation, the National Natural History Museum of France and PELUM Uganda.

The second issue, published in 2023, highlighted the politicized use of food sovereignty: "Between nationalism and internationalism, what future for food sovereignty?".



Discover this edition as well as the Phosphorus collection
www.ilesdepaix.org/en/2023-phosphore





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- ✕ Bastogne
- ✕ Anderlecht
- ✕ Dinant
- ✕ Tournai
- ✕ Verviers
- ✕ Jette
- ✕ Perwez

Want to engage in a dynamic citizen movement?

**Join our volunteers
in Wallonia and Brussels:
Campagne@ilesdepaix.org**

CAMPAIGN

Gradually rewarding determination

The Iles de Paix campaign was in full swing in January 2023. Our ambassador Virginie Hocq got enthusiastically involved in the citizen movement driven by Iles de Paix and her precious network of volunteers. The Creed of Virginie Hocq: *"Together, let us now act for a more sustainable diet!"*. At her side, to wear it loud and clear, a Hesbignion market gardener, a Beninese engineer, committed students and a teacher experienced in the theme of international solidarity.



In 2023, the campaign was synonymous with recovery after the covid pandemic. We note the return of several sectors of volunteers through French-speaking Belgium and the re-involvement of youth movements. But also new partnerships were concluded with schools and the increasing number of school animations compared to 2022. A paying craze as the results of 2023 display an increase of 4 % compared to the previous campaign. Sales revenue on public roads increased by 10 % and represents in total of no less than 90 % of the overall campaign receipts. You must see the result of the action of each volunteer and their determination to reach each citizen to defend a more sustainable diet. Let us note that it is not given for everyone to like approaching strangers in the street... In this case, we are not talking about desire or comfort zone, but commitment and conviction to contribute to a societal change. May each volunteer be thanked here for their unwavering support.

As we know, union is strength, but at Iles de Paix, union also makes the earth.

Luxembourg



Education to global and united citizenship

As in Belgium, the year 2023 was also the first truly "post-pandemic" year for education in global and united citizenship in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. This recovery was notably marked by the number of people who came to the mainstream events and by increasing requests for animations. Hence, Iles de Paix Luxembourg participated in several events in collaboration with other organizations and institutions: the first edition of the "Lëtzcooperate" festival (in the presence of Lieven Peeters, director of Iles de Paix in Uganda), the editions of the festival "South Cinema" or even "Alternative Gourmet Walking".

In 2023, 54 animations were organized and two newsletters were sent. The new perpetual citizenship calendar (also available in Belgium) has been finalized and distributed to all Luxembourg primary schools as well as to primary teachers in French-speaking classes. This weekly calendar includes visuals, information as well as citizenship exercises, world days, seasonal vegetables, etc.

Solidary and financial partnerships

In 2023, private donors and partners –old and new– supported Iles de Paix Luxembourg. With an increased of 8% compared to 2022, the results of the Luxembourg fundraising were positive. This increase contributed to obtaining the co-financing of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Luxembourg for the support of our programs in four partners countries (Benin, Uganda, Peru and Tanzania). For the first time, it also made it possible to obtain the co-financing of the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity for a project to strengthen the resilience of Burkinabe family farms to climate change.

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Tax deduction from 120 € per year

You have woven the web of solidarity

For some, all this only makes sense in isolation...



**For others,
they have a deep connection...**

**Thank you to each of you for making the link,
with us, between all these elements.**

**Your support -moral, financial, voluntary- is
valuable to us and allows us to carry out our
actions on a daily basis.**

ROBUSTNESS AND INTEGRITY

In terms of revenue, 2023 ended with a positive financial result of €214,883 while the budget forecast a loss of €521,606. This result can be explained by several reasons: inheritance revenue was higher than initially expected and savings were made in head office personnel costs (following, in particular, the vacancy of several positions). Added to these own revenues are the convincing results of the diversification of the association's financing: in 2023, three donors became new financial partners. Thus, private and public funding contributes €3,734,000 to the co-financing of the programs.

In terms of expenses, 87% of the year's funds were allocated to the various Iles de Paix programs, in Belgium and internationally. Note, for example, the start of the Mangu Sane pilot project lasting one year (to be discovered in the focus, page 9). The remaining 13% helps finance the good management of the association and fundraising.

Integrity closely monitored

For several years, the NGO has had a Code of Ethics and Conduct as well as a complaint management procedure. This code defines Iles de Paix's commitments in terms of integrity. By "integrity", we mean the fight against fraud and corruption on the one hand (financial integrity), and moral or sexual harassment on the other hand (physical and psychological integrity). Concretely, any breach noted in one of the eight guidelines of the Code can initiate the declaration procedure, lead to a complaint and follow-up, both internally and externally, with the competent authorities.

In 2023, no complaints were recorded via the email address integrity@ilesdepaix.org. In addition, no situation of breach of integrity has been identified through internal and external monitoring and control processes.

How are Iles de Paix resources allocated and spent?

Income

Own resources

Campaign and related actions	556,910 €
Donations, legacies, etc.	1,366,705 €

Funding

Private funding (companies and foundations)	318,455 €
Public funding	3,415,504 €

Total **5,657,574 €**

Expenses

Programs abroad

Benin	777,323 €
Burkina Faso	663,213 €
Peru et Bolivia	929,082 €
Tanzania	1,108,456 €
Uganda	768,239 €

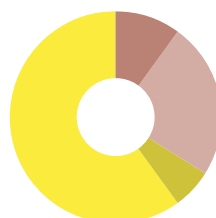
Programs in Europe

Global Education and Advocacy	695,837 €
Fundraising (Belgium)	379,019 €
Fundraising and Awareness raising (Luxembourg)	60,964 €
Mangu Sane	60,558 €

Total **5,442,691 €**

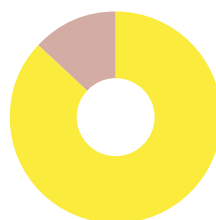
> These figures will be presented at the June 2024 General Assembly for approval.

Distribution of income



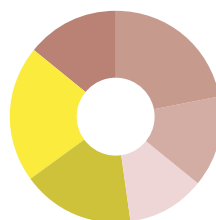
10 %	Campaign and related actions
24 %	Donations, legacies, etc.
6 %	Private funding (companies and foundations)
60 %	Public funding

Overall distribution of expenditure



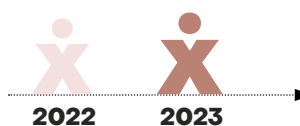
87 %	Direct expenditure on programs abroad and in Europe
13 %	Running costs

Distribution of expenditure by country



22 %	Belgium and Luxembourg
14 %	Benin
12 %	Burkina Faso
17 %	Peru et Bolivia
21 %	Tanzania
14 %	Uganda

Annual donations



An increase of 8 %
compared to 2022

Cultivating solidarity is power.

Support thousands of farming families in Africa and Latin America. Get involved in Europe and contribute to the Iles de Paix programs.

Everyone at their own level has the power to change things.



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iles de paix

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