

# Annual report 2024



**iles de paix**



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## ✘ Change things here and there. Then little by little, everywhere.

Our action is local, targeted and concrete. Each project is a step closer to achieving the right to food for all.



Context from the Iles de Paix Manifesto

Cover: Lindaeli, a farmer in Tanzania, in front of her seed bank.

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# EDITORIAL

## Growing Possibilities

Every year, the world confronts us with numerous challenges. The climate crisis, food inflation, geopolitical tensions and democratic setbacks: these are all realities that could lead to fatigue or submission to the inevitable. But this year again, another dynamic has emerged at Iles de Paix: that of action, solidarity and resilience.

This 2024 activity report is a testament to this. It tells the story of what grows when women and men, here and elsewhere, decide to take action. When communities reclaim their agriculture, their food and their future. When young people learn, debate and commit to a fairer world. When people act together, at their level, with determination.

*"In the face of crises, we do not resign ourselves. We build."*

Building means supporting sustainable food systems capable of feeding everyone without destroying the planet. It means recognizing that this transition cannot succeed without full recognition of the rights of women, the primary agents of change in many regions of the world, even if gender inequalities are often inherent in food systems.

Building means forging links between the fields of Africa, Latin America and Belgium, by including spaces for debate and quality partnerships.

Building also means believing in the power of education, critical thinking, dialogue and participation. It means strengthening the power

of people everywhere. Because quality, fair and sustainable food is not a luxury, but a right.

This report is not just a summary. It traces the contours of a future to be built, collectively. It invites us to continue, to expand, to believe in what's possible. Because in the face of the current uncertainties, one thing is certain: it is through commitment, cooperation and solidarity that we will make a difference. Thank you for being part of this movement. And above all, let's continue together to expand what's possible.



**MARIE  
WUESTENBERGHS**

*General Director*

# Food systems, a driver of change

Iles de Paix is committed to the agroecological transition to develop sustainable food systems. These systems are respectful of the planet, guarantee the rights of farmers, and capable of feeding all human beings, today and tomorrow. Through our collaborations with local organizations and thousands of citizens in Latin America, Africa and Europe, our work translates into sustainable production, storage, processing and marketing practices and a consumption pattern embraced by critically thinking citizens.

Iles de Paix develops participatory methods so that project leaders are actors in their transformation. For example, through various researches and training in agroecological techniques, farmers improving their yields while preserving biodiversity. This approach helps fight hunger and strengthen the resilience of farming families highly exposed to climate change. The approach also extends to Belgium, where citizen initiatives in Brussels, Namur and Libramont

have been supported: a collaborative, local and community-based approach aimed at connecting people in precarious situations to quality food, which is still inaccessible.

This sequence of action is extended by awareness-raising activities, citizen mobilization and political advocacy in favour of the right to food for all. In Belgium and internationally, six areas of intervention combine to strengthen our overall impact and international solidarity.

## OUR 6 INTERVENTION AREAS FOR COLLECTIVE MOBILIZATION



### International Cooperation

Our action is local, targeted and concrete. Through local support, farmers increase and diversify their production. Their storage, processing and marketing capacities are then improved. At the same time, we mobilize local authorities while raising awareness among consumers of all ages.



### Awareness

Our activities, educational tools, exhibitions, reports, conferences and more contribute to creating an inclusive and inspiring learning environment. By involving young people in awareness-raising activities, Iles de Paix cultivates a generation of change agents, ready to face contemporary challenges.



### Continuing Education

We educate, train and inspire adults for a fairer world. Using dynamic tools and powerful animations, we raise awareness and encourage civic action in the face of global challenges. Because change begins with each and every one of us!

### Political advocacy

Acting locally doesn't prevent existing globally. Because the transition to sustainable food systems cannot rely solely on individual changes, and structural changes are essential, we are committed to advocacy efforts in Belgium and internationally.



### Campaign

A citizen movement for over 50 years, the annual January campaign is much more than a fundraiser! Volunteers, students, teachers, citizens and farming families form a human chain linking Africa and Latin America to Belgium. A gathering that is both friendly and committed.



### Mangu Sane

With the Mangu Sane project, we support inclusive food transition initiatives in Belgium at the heart of our work, the people for whom access to quality food is a daily challenge. Think globally... Act locally.

# 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  
**51 PARTNERS**

## INTERNATIONALLY



**20.255** people who are active in their own projects (♀ 55 %)

These are the people at the heart of the programs, the driving forces behind the projects developed. For example, a farmer who receives agroecology training and/or equipment, a corn seller who shares their best practices with other families, local NGO staff who participate in a study trip, etc.



**5.868.652** people reached by awareness campaigns (♀ 54 %)

These are people such as farmers and consumers who are informed and made aware of issues such as the right to food, the agroecological transition, access to quality food, etc., via local media and event activities. For example, listeners made aware of healthy eating through our radio campaigns, visitors to our know-how fairs, etc.



**14.556.964** people affected by the political changes targeted by the advocacy (♀ 50 %)

A groundswell reaches broader communities through the advocacy efforts of Iles de Paix. These are people affected by potential policy changes resulting from our programs. For example, farmers in a specific region are working in better conditions because a law has changed in their favour as a result of our advocacy efforts.



**113.785** people who are members of organizations supported by the programs (♀ 54 %)

The target here is members of farmers' organizations, groups or communities supported by the program through institutional, organizational, operational or technical strengthening actions.



Uganda

Tanzania



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**IN EUROPE**

**81.238 PEOPLE**

ARE IN TOTAL AWARE OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RESPONSIBLE FOOD



**9.545** students have been made aware through our activities



**55.833** students have been made aware through our educational tools



**82** educational tools have been distributed



**Thousands** of volunteers have been mobilized

**A set of interventions to promote the right to food for all**

For a lasting impact in Africa and Latin America, Iles de Paix develops and articulates 3 complementary areas of work:

- > Support small-scale farming families so they can improve, increase and diversify their production. **The goal** is to ensure they have enough to eat year-round.
- > Support farming families and organizations so they can optimize their storage, processing and marketing capabilities. **The goal** is to improve living conditions, send children to school, pay for healthcare, reinvest in their farms and so on.
- > Mobilize authorities and raise consumer awareness so they can participate in the agroecological transition in their region. **The goal** is to encourage the scaling up of sustainable food systems.

To achieve the results presented in this activity report, Iles de Paix collaborates with competent local organizations that have in-depth knowledge of the context and share their vision.

# 2024 FOCUS

## **Kabambiro : a sustainable withdrawal**

After seven years of presence in Kabambiro, Uganda, Iles de Paix began a first phase withdrawal of its activities in this intervention zone in 2024. Since 2017, nearly 300 farmers have been supported in the agroecological transition of their farms.

One of the major results was the creation of an agricultural cooperative, notably supported by Iles de Paix. By managing a maize mill, the cooperative allows its members to process their produce into flour for their consumption, but also to pool the production of all members for collective sale. The resulting profits are redistributed among the group's shareholders. In addition, the mill's by-products can be used as feed for livestock, which constitutes added value. Ultimately, this makes the local production system more self-sufficient and reduces the cooperative's dependence on external market prices. To ensure follow-up, the cooperative was put in contact with partners (KRC and Humundi) who plan to create a savings and credit service there, while the team supported several farms to become learning centres. A withdrawal, therefore, is in a process of continuity, autonomy and sustainability.

## **Partnership approach**

Whether in Europe, Africa, or Latin America, Iles de Paix collaborates hand in hand with local partners committed to rural development, human rights and agroecology. A partnership is not simply a financial relationship, but a true long-term collaboration. This approach is constantly evolving, informed by field experience and developments within international cooperation. It also allows for collaborations with other stakeholders (local and national political representatives, international organizations, Belgian institutions, etc.) to multiply the impact of actions carried out on the ground.

Partnerships are based on trust, dialogue, shared objectives and mutual skill-building. In Iles de Paix's intervention strategy, partners, in interaction with the local population, are at the heart of the action. This helps strengthen civil society, ensure the continuity of actions over time and adapt solutions to local realities.

## Monitoring-evaluation-learning

The ongoing monitoring and evaluation of Iles de Paix remained a priority in 2024. A set of tools, indicators, and experts (internal and external) regularly collect activity results and feedback from the field. With this information, in the interests of transparency and accountability, we report to our local partners, donors, lenders, authorities and project stakeholders.

Our monitoring and evaluation system is also driven by a desire for continuous learning. Our statistics and reports consider both the quantitative and qualitative progress of projects to draw conclusions about the impact and relevance of operational programs. Based on the results, teams from both internationally and in Europe adapt activities and evolve intervention strategies.

For example, the data presented on page 6 of this activity report was compiled using this system. Another example: In September 2024, the Iles de Paix team in Tanzania hired an external consultant to evaluate the impact of a project in seven villages and twelve farmer groups. The evaluation also included two restaurants and two vendors to analyze market dynamics, and three schools to assess their agroecological initiatives. The report testified positive findings, most of whose recommendations will be addressed over the next two years.

## Future prospects

Iles de Paix's 2017–2026 strategic plan is coming to an end. That's why, in 2024, the association took stock and outlined its projections for the next ten years. Ten years after focusing its strategy on the influence of food systems, Iles de Paix reaffirms the impact that more sustainable food systems would have on human dignity throughout the world, at the heart of Iles de Paix's vision.

To ensure the greatest possible impact for the people with whom Iles de Paix works, the NGO will continue its locally anchored programs while evolving into a global change agent. The association will focus specifically on three areas: the adaptation and resilience of populations to climate change and biodiversity loss, the empowerment of young people as actors in the transition of food systems and the promotion and protection of fundamental rights, with particular attention paid to women and young people.

Finally, the NGO maintains its founding values which are solidarity, respect, accountability and trust to build alternative, more just and sustainable development models.



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# Women at the heart of food systems

Ensuring women's rights are not just a matter of social justice: they are an essential condition for transforming food systems. When women have access to land, seeds, training and decision-making, the effects are felt far beyond their own lives. Families are better nourished, incomes are more stable and communities become more resilient.

Recognizing women as full agents of change enables them to fully contribute to sustainable solutions for agriculture, the environment and society. And yet...

While we know that women play a central role in global agriculture, they represent more than 50% of the agricultural workforce in many African countries, but still they hold only 15% of agricultural land in sub-Saharan Africa (FAO, 2023). And they face many persistent obstacles.

## A lever of dignity and social transformation

At Iles de Paix, we believe that sustainable food systems are not only a response to ecological or economic challenges. In our view, they are also a powerful vector of human empowerment. When they integrate women's rights across the board, food systems promote autonomy, strengthen self-esteem and profoundly change family and community dynamics.

By providing women with equitable access to resources, training and marketing channels, the dynamics surrounding sustainable food contribute to:

- > Reducing women's economic dependence
- > Encouraging their participation in governance spaces

- > Stimulating a more equitable distribution of domestic tasks
- > Strengthening their role as agents of change within the communities

In other words, the human impact is considerable: women who dare to speak out, girls who continue their education and families who are more united and resilient in the face of crises.

## Agroecology by women

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Agroecological practices such as composting, agroforestry, soil management, land restore and reduce chemical use. For women, often managing small gardens or farms, they mean better yields, greater autonomy and less dependence on expensive inputs.

By promoting traditional and local knowledge, which is primarily held by women, their role as guardians of biodiversity is strengthened, particularly through seed management, the preservation of local varieties and the use of medicinal plants. This also strengthens their status within communities and their ability to adapt to climate change.

## Progress, step by step

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Iles de Paix has been integrating a gender approach into its long-standing programs. Although this is a long-term process, some results are tangible.

In Burkina Faso, women represent the majority of active members in the agricultural cooperatives supported by our Feed Good program. Despite obstacles related to equitable access to land, progress is being observed in households. Some activities have helped raise men's awareness of the importance of women's income for family well-being. This strengthens women's role in their homes. This promotes both family dialogue and a more equitable use of resources.

As we know, agroecology requires a lot of work and time, with a high demand for labor. It is sometimes even at this point that certain inequalities arise.

In Peru, rural families have adopted a unique tool: the weekly family activity planner. It promotes a balanced redistribution of tasks (farm, domestic, etc.) and creates a positive climate by facilitating inter-generational dialogue within the family. "Not taking into account the gender approach would greatly hinder the impacts we hope to achieve on the ground," says Ludovic Joly, director of Iles de Paix in Peru and Bolivia. *"However, we must act cautiously and with distinction: nothing is imposed, we open the debate, while respecting everyone's habits."*

In Tanzania, Maasai culture is also taken into account. The program encourages the involvement of the entire family in agricultural decisions, even though the cooperatives are 65% women. Furthermore, it has been observed that "men can also be potential agents of change," reports Ayesiga Buberwa, director of Iles de Paix in Tanzania. Some of them, called "gender changers," become models of transformation. "In some villages, men assist their wives in cooking demonstrations or help them with daily tasks. These men are then a source of inspiration for other families!"

## Our institutional commitment

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At Iles de Paix, we believe that social and environmental justice requires a transformation of gender relations. Our systemic approach aims to deconstruct structural inequalities by valuing the roles of each individual in building more just and sustainable societies.

As such, we are committed to integrating the gender dimension into all of our actions, ensuring that women have equitable access to resources, training and decisionmaking. By collaborating closely with local organizations, we promote initiatives that empower women, recognizing their essential role in food security and sustainable development. We are convinced that these women are truly key agents of change.

# Tanzania

## Women and Men Leadership Role Models



**6.037 people** involved in their own projects (♀ 59 %)



**41.955 people** who are members of organizations supported by the programs (♀ 60 %)



**5 million citizens** reached through radio broadcasts



**7.264 students** eating a variety of school meals (vegetables and bananas)



**142 beehives** distributed to 10 villages involved in beekeeping

## Farmers seeds

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Faced with market access difficulties and prolonged droughts in Tanzania, peasant seeds are a serious avenue for strengthening access to sufficient and quality food. Varied, peasant seeds help combat malnutrition by providing a diet richer in nutrients, strengthening genetic diversity with varieties more resistant to climatic change, and increasing the independence of peasant families in their access to seeds. Hence, in 2024, 53 farms increased their seed production with the support of the National Plant Genetic Resource Centre. Among them, 32 focused on the production of different varieties of maize and 9 on beans. After harvest, producer families stored their seeds in "seed banks" (for the next planting season) and exchanged them with other farmers. During a parliamentary committee meeting, Iles de Paix and its local partner, Shiwakuta, restated the importance of these seeds and expressed a desire for a national law. It would promote greater public funding for them and research into their nutritional benefits. The law would also help counter the disadvantages of genetically modified seeds.

## An award-winning farmer

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With the program's support, Flora Godson, a 43-year-old farmer living in Arusha, improved her farm through agroecology, overcoming challenges such as soil infertility, water scarcity and market instability. She adopted sustainable farming practices such as composting, bio-pesticides and crop rotation. As a result, her land was restored, and her farm's productivity increased. Despite initial disbelief and resistance from her community, Flora continued and was eventually recognized as "Arusha District's Best Farmer of the Year" at the 30th Nane Nane Exhibition. This annual event celebrates the contribution of farmers to the national economy. Her success has made her farm a model of sustainable agriculture, attracting visits from others in the sector. Flora has since actively encouraged other women to adopt the approach. It hence proves that women play an essential role in the agroecological transition, in improving livelihoods (especially financial) and in conserving the environment. However, this support for women

does not prevent men from also being involved as stakeholders in the transition to agroecology practices. While respecting local and cultural norms, they were made aware of gender equality and women's rights. Iles de Paix has supported and will continue to encourage these women and men, to be agents of change within households and society.

## Empowering Rural Entrepreneurs

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Partner Mviwaarusha created a "farmer centre," benefiting more than 1,100 people. Since 2022, Iles de Paix has supported the construction of this centre for farmers, which was completed in December 2024. It offers various services such as processing, microfinance services, a store for farming families to sell their products and a restaurant for a diverse and local meals. Furthermore, of the 20 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) supported by the program since 2023, 17 (including 10 women-led enterprises) were assessed last year by an external consultant at the request of Iles de Paix. The assessment focused on the gaps hindering their agroecological transition and economic development. These include, for example, financial literacy in terms of budgeting and savings, as well as business management. Recommendations, such as carrying out a market study and a business plan, were then formulated to improve the performance of these SMEs.

# Uganda

A sustainable food system  
at the heart of a multitude of actors



**3.882 people involved**  
in their own projects ( ♀ 51 % )



**52.099 people** who are members  
of organizations supported  
by the programs ( ♀ 50 % )



**100 young people** trained in  
entrepreneurship ( dont 54 ♀ )



**732 students** from 10 primary  
schools, active members of  
agroecology clubs



**295 local leaders** were made  
aware of the principles of  
sustainable food systems

## Linking local and national advocacy

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Despite lush nature, access to food remains a challenge in the Rwenzori region of western Uganda. A lack of knowledge and/or financial means limits households' consumption of diverse and nutritious products. *"This is why agroecology is a key approach to improving this situation. Farms should not only grow produce for sale, but also produce a variety of foods to feed their own families in a balanced way,"* explains Lieven Peeters, country director of Iles de Paix in Uganda. To share the message at the national level, the Regional Platform of Agroecology Stakeholders was created in 2024 by several organizations, including Iles de Paix. It brings together local and international NGOs, political representatives and researchers. The platform's members share their experiences and knowledge. Together, they discuss challenges related to food systems and propose solutions. The platform also collaborates with PELUM which is a national organization made up of agroecology experts, to ensure that local experiences can inspire national public policies, through advocacy campaigns.

## Street vending

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In the streets of Fort Portal, we can encounter many street vendors. They sell simple and quick snacks. Many residents consume them and consider them as meals, although these foods do not always meet nutritional needs. Furthermore, selling food on the street is officially prohibited by local political representatives. These vendors, therefore, often find themselves in a vulnerable situation: their status is not recognized, they have difficulty organizing among themselves and their equipment is inadequate and of poor quality. To support them, the program focused on three main areas. First, advocacy efforts were conducted to obtain authorization for them to sell their products in specific locations. Second, to promote their recognition and defend their interests, vendor associations registered with the administration and listed their members. Third, vendors were also

trained in food safety to ensure that the food sold is healthier (by reducing chemical inputsetc.) for consumers. This measure has significantly improved hygiene and sanitation practices.

## Example of women success

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The program aims to promote women's rights in agriculture by encouraging them to engage in entrepreneurship, grow quality food for sale and household consumption and access markets and credit associations. Before joining the program, Masika Naume, a poultry farmer in Karangura, had little involvement in decisions affecting her family because she believed it was a man's role to provide for the household's basic needs. However, by participating in the program, she discovered her entrepreneurial potential: *"I am proud to say that I can now provide for my family's basic needs. I have gained confidence and independence, and I am no longer dependent on my husband for everything."* Iles de Paix's partner, RCA, provided her with ongoing guidance on good poultry farming practices to increase her income through egg sales. Through this activity, she can also cover her children's school fees. Furthermore, 2024 saw the first phase withdrawal of Iles de Paix's activities from Kabamiro. The team had been active there since 2017. In total, 300 farmers were trained in the agroecological transition of their farms, for example, through the integration of small ruminants and good harvest and conservation practices.

# Benin

Between  
production and  
awareness-raising  
activities



**5.993 people** involved in their own projects ( ♀ 57 %)



**7.092 people** who are members of organizations supported by the programs ( ♀ 55 %)



**16.000 litres** of liquid organic fertilizers produced and used by some 30 farmers' organizations



**8 agroecological market garden sites** developed by 150 families



**13 T tons** of rice, 740 kg of fonio, and 15.6 tons of soybeans sold by 17 women's groups

## 100% women management

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Iles de Paix operates in the Natitingou region to impact the city's food system and stimulate the local economy, benefiting sustainable food stakeholders. To this end, Iles de Paix and its local partners, ERAD and JAB, supported the development of a one-hectare agroecological market garden site in a flood-proof area secured by fencing (to prevent theft and animals). The plants are watered using a borehole equipped with a solar-powered pump and two raised reservoirs that distribute water to around ten containers. The site also has a composting area and a system for producing liquid organic fertilizers made from "weeds." A group of 32 women manages the site and owns the land. Throughout the year, they produce agroecological vegetables, such as moringa plants and tomatoes, which they sell at the local market to generate income. They also grow a variety of vegetables to supplement a balanced diet for their family's. Furthermore, the Village Savings and Loan Association system has been implemented within this women's cooperative: each member of the group regularly contributes to a common fund that is granted, in turn, to one of the members to finance their own activities. It is an empowering system that gives women the opportunity to better manage their financial resources, receive credit quickly, strengthen solidarity and better organize themselves for the maintenance and renewal of equipment.

## Leveraged result

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Long-term planning is the foundation of the Integrated Farmer Plan (PIP) approach. First, all household members work together to outline the initial situation of their farm and envision its future development. They then create a budgeted action plan and set production and diversification objectives. Using diagrams and symbols, the team simplified this plan, hence expanding its use to all types of families, particularly those with low literacy levels.

The approach was explained within Village Assemblies in the 25 intervention villages. This enabled the team to raise awareness among families not initially directly targeted by the project. They were informed of the importance of agroecological farming, the steps involved in implementing the plan, the nutritional and health risks of certain foods consumed and, conversely, the benefits of consuming agroecologically grown products. Other events have promoted its recognition, to reach as many families as possible. For example, Integrated Peasant Plan competitions have also been organized at different levels: village, municipal and departmental. 152 people (including 72 women) reached the final departmental level, and ten winners, from the municipalities where the association operates, received prizes. In total, all of these activities have raised awareness of the PIP approach among 2,306 families, out of the 740 initially targeted by the project.

## The JISSA effect

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The year 2024 was also marked by the celebration of International Food Safety Day in the commune of Natitingou on June 27, 28 and 29. This is an annual event during which awareness-raising and advocacy activities are organized. Hence, nearly 6,000 people were made aware of the importance of food safety through a march (mobilizing 500 mostly young people), community radio broadcasts and evening entertainment. During these three days of celebration, young students also presented poems, written for the event, before a jury on the health benefits of locally produced food, without the use of chemical inputs.

# Burkina Faso

The strength  
of the collective



**2.160 people** involved in their own projects (♀ 47 %)



**1.904 people** who are members of organizations supported by the programs (♀ 43 %)



**22 tons of fodder** produced for animal feed



**539 women** educated about local infant nutrition (200 targeted at the start of the project)



**200 participants** in the film-debate on "Buying Local"

## Living together in a difficult context

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Burkina Faso has been experiencing security instability for several years, forcing families to relocate to safer areas. In response to this situation, Iles de Paix programs are adapting locally, utilizing risk management tools and remaining in tune with the needs of local populations. To this end, a pilot project was implemented in 2024 with partners AMR and ARFA. It combines support for the agroecological transition with the prevention of tensions between communities, involving both households in "host" villages and displaced families. At the agroecological level, this has enabled the training and provision of equipment to men and women for agricultural production and poultry and small ruminant farming. In terms of social cohesion, nine dialogue workshops (including three inter-generational) on living together were organized in three municipalities. Discussions on these themes facilitated the integration of displaced people into host communities and contributed to conflict prevention. Two radio programs on the same themes were also broadcast, reaching at least 50,000 people. To better understand the various stakeholders and their concerns, a conflict sensitivity study was conducted to ensure that actions were aligned with needs.

## Improved cooking equipment

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With local partner Diobass, Iles de Paix trained 64 women to build "improved stoves" for cooking. Unlike traditional stoves, which consume a lot of wood, improved stoves are a closed structure in which a pot can be placed in the upper part and firewood can be added in the lower part. With this small structure, families save on collecting, cutting and purchasing wood. The reduced smoke also helps prevent respiratory illnesses and fire risks.

By 2024, 817 improved stoves had been made from raw materials available in the region (clay, water, straw, etc.). Some of these stoves are made of ceramic; their heat retention capacity is even more efficient. The women who make these different

types of stoves can sell them on local markets to earn additional income. Another important aspect of this project is the transmission of knowledge to raise awareness among as many households as possible. Hence, the women targeted by the project, after having learned to make and use improved stoves, in turn, train other women in this practice.

## Coveted lands

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Pressure on land is increasing. The rapid expansion of cities, land speculation and the arrival of displaced families are the main causes. This difficulty has not spared Iles de Paix, in 2024, a project had to be relocated due to land issues. A group of market gardeners had planned to acquire land on the borders of the town of Koupéla to facilitate the supply of agroecological products. In response to these problems, it was decided to seek another agricultural site in a municipality further from the town center.

Land is a family treasure that each member has access to for agricultural production. Women can cultivate land, but rarely own it. Through activities, the team supported reflections on the roles of men and women within the household and society. The contribution of income-generating activities undertaken by women to the household (for health costs, schooling, etc.) is, for example, highlighted.

# Bolivia

Agroecological  
producers,  
agents of change



**230 people** involved in their own projects (♀ 69 %)



**744 people** who are members of organizations supported by the programs (♀ 69 %)



**115 women** trained in agroecological techniques



**16 farming families** equipped with greenhouses



**37.627 consumers** educated through food fairs

## The « Bolsaludable » initiative

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In Bolivia, our local partner Agrecol Andes launched the "Bolsaludable" initiative in 2020, which translates as "Organic Baskets." This initiative aims to encourage a change in local food consumption habits while promoting family farming and the solidarity economy. Specifically, a group of consumers receives a list of agricultural products available for sale each week via social media, which they can then order. Based on the quantities requested, the producers prepare baskets of certified organic agricultural products, which they deliver directly to their homes with the support of Agrecol. By 2024, 200 products had been offered for sale online, and 140 families consumed local, pesticide-free products each week. The producers received training and support in their transition to agroecological practices. Thanks to the skills they acquired, they managed their own sustainable and environmentally friendly food production, both to feed their families and for sale. This contributed to both their financial and community independence.

## Agroforestry in the face of drought

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In recent years, Bolivia has been severely affected by an intense drought, causing numerous devastating fires. To limit the impact of these phenomena on soils and crops, agroforestry appears to be a particularly relevant solution. This approach involves rethinking the role of trees in agricultural systems by integrating different plant layers. An agroforestry plot generally consists of three levels: crops (at the base), fruit trees (at an intermediate level) and larger local trees (at the top). These two types of trees play a crucial role their roots nourish the soil, they shelter valuable biodiversity, contribute to moisture retention and provide shade for crops. This shade protects plants from high heat and solar radiation, improving both their resilience and their agricultural yield.

In Cochabamba, 55 farming families have chosen to develop agroforestry. They have promoted local tree species, such as the false pepper tree and alder, as well as fruit trees such as peach, apple and citrus trees. These agroforestry plots, therefore, constitute spaces that are both productive and ecologically sustainable. They allow families to access a more sustainable diet while generating additional income. Above all, they strengthen their resilience to the effects of climate change, particularly drought.

## Access to water

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The climatic situation in Bolivia, as mentioned above, greatly complicates access to water, particularly for crop irrigation. To address this, 34 farming families have implemented two complementary water harvesting and management techniques. The first involves the construction of circular cement reservoirs fed by natural water sources. Access to these reservoirs is organized on a rotating basis among users, ensuring regular and equitable irrigation of agricultural plots. The second technique involves the installation of large-capacity tanks, with a volume of 10,000 liters, on small market gardening farms near peri-urban and urban areas. They are filled either by collecting rainwater or via the communal water supply system when available. These systems, which are simple, accessible and adapted to the local context, help mitigate the effects of water stress and protect agricultural production.

# Peru

## The family calendar, a valuable asset



**1,953 people** involved in their own projects ( ♀ 54 %)



**9,991 people** who are members of organizations supported by the programs ( ♀ 54 %)



**69 hectares** of land dedicated to agroecological production



**205 producers** trained in processing techniques



**132 families** use micro-landfills and recycling areas

## “El Semanario Familiar”

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In 2024, in collaboration with local partners IDEL, IDMA, and IDPP, Iles de Paix implemented the "Semnario Familiar", a participatory tool developed with 150 families. It consists of a weekly calendar listing daily household chores. These are numerous and varied cleaning the house, caring for children, working in the fields, etc. The development of this calendar enabled families to observe a significant imbalance in the distribution of the workload, particularly between women and men. Indeed, women not only bear the majority of domestic tasks but also a considerable share of agricultural work. The calendar aims to raise awareness of this inequality and encourage a more equitable distribution of responsibilities among all household members, including children. At the end of the week, each family is invited to conduct a collective assessment to analyze changes, identify possible improvements and adjust the distribution of tasks if necessary. Simple and dynamic, this tool encourages exchanges within families. However, its implementation requires sustained support, time to gradually implement each step and the mobilization of facilitators duly trained in this participatory and sensitive approach.

## Contaminated food

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Raising consumer awareness about sustainable food remained a priority. For the fourth consecutive year, Iles de Paix participated in the national analysis of agricultural product contamination. The results once again raised serious concerns about the consequences for human health. For example, in some retail outlets, residue levels found in celery exceeded the tolerance threshold—the maximum concentration of toxic molecules allowed in food—established by the Peruvian government by 2,000%. Faced with the recurring presence of numerous residues in plant products and similar to the three previous editions, an awareness campaign was launched. Based on the scientific results, communication materials were developed and widely distributed in partnership with local media. This action had tangible consequences at the local,

regional and national levels. For example, it has been observed an increase in the number of consumers joining agroecological consumption networks as well as a growing awareness among public authorities, both local and national. They are now more receptive to dialogue on these issues.

## Visibility, the key to sustainability

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Support for the four “Puntos Verdes: sales spaces dedicated to the marketing of agroecological products also continued in 2024. This year was particularly marked by in-depth work on their visibility, to raise awareness among a wider audience and strengthen consumer confidence. Noelia Pérez, a producer and seller at the Punto Verde in Huánuco, testifies to the impact of this initiative: *“One of the successes of the program is this connection between producer and consumer. At the Punto Verde, you feel recognized by the customers who comes, meaning they appreciate what we do. This makes us producers very enthusiastic because it motivates us to continue working along this ecological path.”* Among the awareness-raising actions implemented, the standardization of the Puntos Verdes was a key step. Until then, each space had its own visual identity (different colours, logos, and communication materials), which made them difficult to recognize by the general public. The Puntos Verdes have now been standardized: they have harmonized stands, a common graphic charter with an identical logo, as well as consistent communication messages.


# Belgium


## Education for global and solidarity citizenship

In Belgium, Iles de Paix is rolling out several types of programs to develop food systems:

- > **Education and advocacy through youth education in schools, outreach to volunteers and the general public and advocacy with influential stakeholders and political leaders.**

 **393 school events**

 **55.833 students reached through educational tools**

 **13.934 adults reached through our publications**

- > **Citizen mobilization through our annual campaign.**

- > **Access to quality food through our Mangu Sane program (pilot phase in 2024).**

## RAISING AWARENESS FOR ACTION

### **Between a strong recovery and adaptations**

From the first grade to the twelfth grade, Iles de Paix has been informing, raising awareness and mobilizing young people in schools for a long time. In 2024, nearly 400 activities were provided to more than 11,000 students. Beyond these impressive figures, a qualitative approach underpins each activity. Sessions are organized in small groups of students, enhanced supervision is prioritized via a pair of facilitators and finally, we respond to certain school requests by offering them more specific activity themes, thanks in particular to the educational tools developed annually. This is a way for Iles de Paix to promote more in-depth awareness, encouraging these young people to take action.

### **Disassemble to cause a reaction**

Iles de Paix also deploys other approaches, with the aim of engaging and stimulating reflection among the general public. In collaboration with *Télévision du Monde*, three short awareness-raising videos were produced and widely shared on social media ahead of the holiday season. The catchphrase: "*No farmers, no party!*" All in a peculiar atmosphere.

The idea? To capture the attention of citizens through a situation everyone can relate to (holiday meals, birthday parties, etc.), to raise awareness about violations of farmers' rights. The right to seeds, the right to health, the right to food and a decent income... *These are all fundamental rights for which they must fight every day. But how can they feed us if their health and income are at risk?*

A new side of this "public awareness" at Iles de Paix, which accounted for nearly 1.2 million people reached, 855,000 video views and 385,000 interactions.



### **Climate Chronicles: Stories of Humans and Climate**

With Climate Chronicles, Iles de Paix highlights the stories of men, women and children confronted with climate change. Through their perspectives, we discover how environmental changes influence the lifestyles, traditions and hopes of entire communities. Some see them as threats, others as opportunities: each person deals with the reality of their territory.

This new educational resource was developed in 2024 by Iles de Paix, in collaboration with the web report *Humans and Climate Change Stories*. It consists of five roll-ups and around ten posters, designed to raise awareness of the social dimensions of climate change. Climate Chronicles is a mobile exhibition, free of charge, and adaptable to different school levels, from primary to secondary. Easy to install, it is intended to be a practical tool to awaken critical thinking and promote understanding of climate issues.

Interested schools can request it by contacting [education@ilesdepaix.org](mailto:education@ilesdepaix.org).

## ADVOCACY AND CAPITALIZATION

### Food systems under strain

The political, environmental and economic context of 2024 is far from playing in favour of sustainable food systems and the right to food for all. At various levels of the world, the year 2024 has been marked by repeated and questioning news: What is the place of the agricultural world to the free trade agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur countries? What about agroecology in the Rio Conventions? Faced with Mercosur, Iles de Paix demonstrated, wrote an analysis and supported various collective actions and policy briefs. In support of the Rio Conventions, the NGO reiterated the key role of agroecology in the Convention on Biological Diversity, drawing on its expertise in seeds. For these examples and others, Iles de Paix continues to advocate for political decisions in Belgium, Europe, and the rest of the world to respect the right to food of every individual.

### Reading

The Phosphore Collection explores the political issues driving food systems. It is a series of studies produced in collaboration with *Humundi* and *Autre Terre*. Phosphore offers interpretive frameworks for understanding political discourses, competing arguments and their scientific validity.

In 2024, the third issue of Phosphore explored the re-localization of food. Could it be a way to achieve greater food autonomy and develop resilience in the face of global crises?

**In 2024, Phosphore n°3 explored the relocation of food production.**



Could it be a way of achieving greater food autonomy and developing resilience to global crises?

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### New string to our bow

Iles de Paix has adopted a new focus in Belgium with its continuing education component, recently recognized by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. The objective was to encourage adults to engage in critical and active citizenship through the provision of studies, analyses, and sociocultural tools.

In addition to the study published in Phosphore No. 3 (see opposite), another project was carried out in close collaboration with youth movements. This is "Le monde à travers champs" (The World Through the Fields), a fun and reflective game that explores the daily lives of farming families around the world, as well as the challenges they face.



© BL-Graphics

Twelve analyses were also published in 2024. Their themes address the place of development cooperation, the crisis in the Sahel and the role of NGOs, the question of relocation to feed the world, or even the problems of access to sustainable food, arising from the experiences of our Mangu Sane program (see page 28).



Discover our various analyses and our "Le monde à travers champs" game.



Saint-Benoît Saint-Servais College

## x Cultivating solidarity is powerful.

**It's together that we succeed in changing things. That's why we promote collective action, solidarity, and cooperation.**

### **Want to join us?**

**Become a solidarity volunteer in Wallonia or Brussels:  
[campagne@ilesdepaix.org](mailto:campagne@ilesdepaix.org)**

## CAMPAIGN

### **Between novelties and anchoring**



The 2024 edition of the Fundraising and Awareness Campaign was all about innovation with the introduction of a new sales item. Alongside the five existing items (module, plantable module, bracelet, reusable food wrap and produce bag), the lanyard made its debut! Available in four themes with varied colours and patterns, it was very well received by both volunteers and buyers. While it didn't dethrone our iconic module, which continues to represent nearly half of all sales, it's close behind in terms of revenue to fund programs in Africa, Latin America and Europe. This 2024 creation is off to a flying start.

To meet the growing demand, new technologies have also made their way into Campaign sales, with QR code payments doubling compared to 2023.

Another important development essential to the success of the Campaign new volunteers in Wallonia and Brussels! Thanks to them, the Campaign has expanded geographically by 12% in 2024 to strengthen this major citizen movement. Between the new volunteers and the loyal veterans, we all know that the success of the January Campaign depends essentially on all these mobilized and committed individuals.

The strong foundation of our volunteer network and the complementarity of all these new initiatives have enabled us to achieve a very successful 2024 Campaign, with a 2.6% increase compared to 2023. In the current global context, we are aware of the efforts made by everyone to achieve this success. We are all the more grateful and very proud of this collective achievement.

## Inclusive food transition initiatives

Human rights and the right to food in particular are central to the vision of Iles de Paix. Already very active in awarenessraising, education and mobilization in Belgium, Iles de Paix decided in 2024 to expand its scope of action to include access to sustainable food in Belgium. Challenged with food insecurity in general and the growing number of people resorting to food aid in particular, the NGO has supported four food transition initiatives. What do they have in common? All are primarily aimed at people for whom access to quality food is a daily problem.



To learn more, discover the analyses of each project via the QR code.

### 1 Regain confidence and ground yourself

Residents of the Reception Home and Community Living Home of the Banalbois non-profit organizations have transformed a wasteland into a vegetable garden to supply their kitchen. Beyond the budgetary impact and the food on the plate, producing one's own food supports the reintegration process through self-esteem, choice and a sense of belonging to a shared project.

### 2 Making connections

The *Dreamkitchen* project, run by the non-profit organization Cultureghem, aims to offer a quality meal every Sunday for free, cooked by volunteers using several tons of unsold produce from the market. It's also a space for sharing, discovery and building social connections. Various activities to raise awareness of the available products have also been offered within the "VRAC" collective purchasing groups.

### 3 Return to Earth

An organic market gardening and social reintegration project, the "Potager des liens" (Vegetable Garden of Links) is a human adventure, a new beginning for reinventing oneself. "For me, growing food is a political act. Beyond re-localizing food, it's about bringing both food and people to life. It goes far beyond simple financial profitability," says Anne Henrard, who heads the project.

### 4 Reconciling dignity and food aid

Nomadic caterers, the *Gastrosophes*, organize events whose profits are used to fund "the same service" for less fortunate people. With the support of Iles de Paix, they launched the "Death to Quinoa!" project through a series of food workshops in solidarity restaurants. With the Mangu Sane\* project, we support access to quality food for all.

# Luxembourg

## Cultivating citizen mobilization



Ayesiga Buberwa, Director of Iles de Paix in Tanzania.

In 2024, approximately thirty educational activities were organized across several schools in Luxembourg, reaching nearly 350 students. For one of them, Ayesiga Buberwa, Director of Iles de Paix in Tanzania, was present which did not fail to stimulate the 5th secondary school students during a question-and-answer session! At the same time, new educational tools were created: the exhibition "Climate Chronicles: Stories of Humans and Climate" (see page 25) as well as the dubbing in English and German of the report "¿Màs?" aimed at deconstructing the productivist narrative in the issues of the right to food (to be discovered online).

Participation in several events also marked the twelve months of 2024, notably through the "On Stéitsch" festival, the "Sustainable Development Education Fair" and the "Alternative Gourmet Walk".

Solidarity partnerships have also been concluded in 2024. Despite a slight decline in results in 2024, Luxembourg's fundraising efforts relied on the valuable support of its individual donors and various sponsors.

Indeed, Luxembourg's partners remained loyal to Iles de Paix in 2024, and new supporters also emerged during the year. The solidarity demonstrated by each of them made it possible to fully or partially support various programs in Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Tanzania) and Latin America (Peru). More information about these programs on pages 12 to 23.

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Tax deduction from €120 per year



## Financial management

# Financial strength to support our actions

### Transparency and integrity

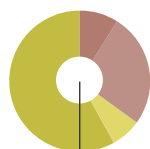
The year 2024 ended with a positive result of €445,140 while the budget projected a loss of €493,882. This result is explained by several factors related to both revenue and expenditure. Income from inheritances and donations was particularly high in 2024 and exceeded forecasts. In addition, new private and public financing was secured during the year. Total revenue therefore increased by €565,000 compared to 2023, an increase of 10%. Expenditure for 2024 amounted to €5,778,000 instead of the €6,069,000 budgeted, a difference of approximately €300,000, mainly due to savings in personnel costs at headquarters. In 2024, 86% of the funds were allocated to the execution and management of Iles de Paix programs, in Belgium and internationally, while the remaining 14% was used to finance the proper management of the association and fundraising.

### Code of Ethics and Conduct

For several years, the NGO has had a Code of Ethics and Conduct as well as a complaint management procedure. Updated in 2024, it defines Iles de Paix's commitments regarding integrity. "Integrity" refers to the fight against fraud and corruption (financial integrity) and moral or sexual harassment (physical and psychological integrity). Specifically, any observed breach of one of the Code's eight guidelines can trigger the reporting process, resulting in a complaint and internal and external follow-up with the appropriate authorities.

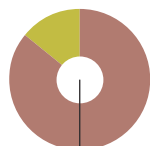
In 2024, two complaints regarding financial integrity were submitted through available channels. Appropriate measures were taken and an internal control process was strengthened in a spirit of continuous improvement of integrity.

## How are the resources of Iles de Paix used?



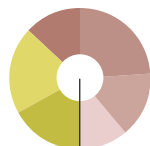
### Distribution of revenue

- 9 % Campaign and related actions
- 26 % Donations, legacies and miscellaneous
- 7 % Private funding (companies and foundations)
- 58 % Public funding



### Global distribution of expenses

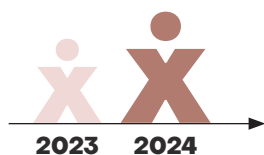
- 86 % Direct costs
- 14 % Structural costs



### Distribution of expenses by country

- 24 % Programs Belgium and Luxembourg
- 15 % Benin
- 11 % Burkina Faso
- 17 % Peru and Bolivia
- 20 % Tanzania
- 13 % Uganda

### Annual donations



An increase of 31 % compared to 2023

### Revenue

#### Own financing

Campaign and related actions	571.427 €
Donations, legacies and miscellaneous	1.589.557 €

#### Funding

Private funding (companies and foundations)	463.889 €
Public funding	3.597.794 €

**Total 6.222.667 €**

### Expenses

#### Programs abroad

Benin	847.011 €
Burkina Faso	639.091 €
Tanzania	1.131.937 €
Uganda	758.894 €
Peru and Bolivia	1.008.830 €

#### Programs in Europe

Education for Global Citizenship and Solidarity (ECMS) and Advocacy	848.159 €
Fundraising (Belgium)	367.431 €
Fundraising and Awareness Raising (Luxembourg)	81.708 €
Mangu Sane	94.466 €

**Total 5.777.527 €**

> These figures will be presented to the General Assembly in June 2025 for approval.

**Iles de Paix embodies a vision of a world where everyone has a place and can contribute to building a better future. A world that promotes solidarity and the right to food for all.**

**By joining Iles de Paix, you too can become an agent of change, contributing to the emergence of a more just and inclusive society.**

**To support Iles de Paix**



**To volunteer**



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