

# Annual Report 2025



iles de paix



**The integrated farming plan: a method for developing a vision for your farm five years from now. Watch this short report.**

## ✘ Today's dreams are tomorrow's reality.

**Dean Marshall**

Without dreams, there is no innovation. What we think and plan today directly influence our decisions, our achievements, and our future environment.

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## Passing the torch, youth in motion

In a globalized world facing major social, environmental, and economic challenges, the role of young people is essential. They are not only the citizens of tomorrow; they are already, today, agents of change for a fairer and more sustainable society!

Through a continuum of educational, awareness-raising, communication, and mobilization activities, Iles de Paix works hand in hand with the younger generation. Workshops, educational tools, exhibitions, reports, campaigns and social media: these are all levers to foster understanding of the world, develop critical thinking and awaken consciences. Informed, engaged, and united, young people are taking their place and getting involved.

This dynamic is part of a deeply interconnected world. In Belgium, as internationally, young people are asserting themselves as a vital force for transformation. In Latin America and Africa, our projects are rooted in this same conviction. In Tanzania, for example, school gardens have been developed for several years: students learn accessible and easily replicable techniques, which they then share within their families, contributing to healthier and more sustainable food systems. In Uganda, youth clubs are organizing, training and developing promising entrepreneurial initiatives. Everywhere, the same dynamic is emerging: that of an engaged youth, capable of taking concrete action on their current and future environment.

Preparing the next generation means recognizing and valuing the skills of young people, but also rejecting any form of resignation. It means giving them the confidence they need to dare to imagine, build alternatives and develop sustainable solutions. This ambition is at the heart of the Iles de Paix approach.

2026 will also be marked by this succession approach, with a change in leadership at Iles de Paix. A new executive team will assume the mantle, building on past achievements and resolutely focused on the future, to continue and expand the momentum already underway.

Because, ultimately, passing the torch is a collective movement that concerns us all. It happens within families, at school, between colleagues and among friends. Each person, in their own way, transmits knowledge, inspires and supports others. Everyone has a role to play and possesses untapped potential. It is this living chain that propels ideas and actions forward.

Through this activity report, we invite you to discover the projects undertaken in 2025. They bear witness to the energy, commitment, and creativity of all those young and old who, every day, contribute to building a fairer and more sustainable world.



**MARIE  
WUESTENBERGHS**

*Executive Director*

# Towards Fairer Food Systems



Faced with climate change and structural imbalances that weaken food systems, **access to healthy food and choice of food remains profoundly unequal.** Iles de Paix works to make this fundamental right a reality by supporting initiatives driven by communities themselves and by making agroecology a concrete lever for sustainable transformation.

In Africa, Latin America and Europe, the organization engages in locally rooted partnerships with farming families and committed stakeholders. **Together, they strengthen agricultural practices based on local knowledge, the preservation of natural resources and economic autonomy.** The challenge is not simply to produce more, but to empower the farmers who feed society. **Production is important, so as the decision-making, knowledge transfer and planning for the future.**

This approach recognizes the inter-dependencies between territories and highlights shared responsibilities. It aims to strengthen resilience to climate and economic shocks, while challenging

dominant models that perpetuate inequalities. This also implies acting beyond the field.

Because these transformations extend beyond local contexts, Iles de Paix also works **in Belgium** through awareness-raising, lifelong learning, citizen mobilization, advocacy and access to sustainable food for all. Changing perspectives, deconstructing narratives and challenging decision-makers are all levers for building fairer food systems. Here, as elsewhere, the goal is to foster sustainable alternatives, driven collectively. In Belgium, the initial steps of the Mangu sane project ("eat healthy" in Esperanto) are moving in this direction, linking food, inclusiveness and human dignity.

## International Cooperation (at the core)

Providing close support to thousands of farming families in Benin, Burkina Faso, Peru, Bolivia, Uganda, and Tanzania. Facilitating agroecological transition on farms, mobilizing local authorities and raising consumer awareness to ensure access to quality food while respecting the environment.



## Lifelong Learning

Analyses, studies and thematic workshops to develop critical and engaged adults and encourage civic action in the face of global challenges.



## Awareness-Raising

Educational tools, workshops, exhibitions and reports to create an inclusive learning environment for school children and help them understand current issues.



**THINK GLOBALLY,  
ACT AT EVERY  
LEVEL**

## Citizen Mobilization

Annual campaign and collective actions to unite people around the right to food. A well-established chain of solidarity linking Africa to Latin America, via Europe.



## Political Advocacy

Involvement in various national and international platforms, advocacy efforts and lobbying of decision-makers for sustainable structural changes aimed at an agroecological transition and respect for fundamental rights.



## Local Transition (Belgium)

Combating food inequalities and launching inclusive initiatives in Wallonia and Brussels to facilitate access to quality food for all.

# A 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

**50 PARTNERS** AND  
**29 NETWORKS**

## INTERNATIONALLY



**25.361** people actively involved  
in their own projects ( ♀ 53 %)

These are the people at the heart of the programs, the driving force behind the developed projects. For example, a farmer who receives agroecology training and/or equipment, a maizemarket vendor who shares her best practices with other families, a local NGO staff member who participates in a study trip, etc.



**4.526.156** people reached  
by awareness campaigns ( ♀ 51 %)

These are people such as farmers and consumers who are informed and made aware of topics such as the right to food, the agroecological transition, access to quality food, etc., through local media and events. For example, listeners made aware of healthy eating through our radio campaigns; visitors to our skills fairs, etc.



**1.338.709** people affected by the policy  
changes targeted by advocacy ( ♀ 53 %)

A groundswell of support is reaching communities at large through the advocacy efforts of Iles de Paix. This involves people affected by potential policy changes resulting from our programs. For example, farmers in a specific region who are working in better conditions because a law has been changed in their favor, following our advocacy work.



**102.625** people who are members of  
organizations supported by the programs ( ♀ 53 %)

This targets members of farmers' organizations, groups or communities supported by the program through institutional, organizational, operational or technical strengthening actions.



Uganda

Tanzania



© Tiffany Masson

**IN EUROPE**

**61.410 PEOPLE**  
HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE  
OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND  
RESPONSIBLE FOOD PRACTICES.



**9.884**  
students have been  
reached through our  
workshops



**35.995** students  
have been reached  
through our educational  
resources.



**93** educational  
resources  
distributed



**Thousands**  
of volunteers  
mobilized

**✘ Having adequate food is a right**

Iles de Paix works to guarantee **the right to food for all**, based on three complementary axes that sustainably strengthen communities in Africa and Latin America.

- > **Ensure access to sufficient, high-quality food year-round** – by supporting small-scale farming families to improve, diversify, and increase their production.
- > **Improve living conditions** – by supporting farming families and organizations to optimize their storage, processing, and marketing capacities, thereby generating stable and reinvestable income.
- > **Promote the transition to sustainable food systems** – by mobilizing authorities and consumers to scale up the adoption of agroecological practices across the country.

To achieve these results, Iles de Paix relies on **committed local partners** with in-depth knowledge of the local context and who share a common vision: a future where everyone can earn a decent living and have access to healthy food.

Discover our work in Belgium and Luxembourg starting on page 24 as well as the partners and networks we work with via the QR code.



# 2025 FOCUS

## Food democracy

In a context of widespread budget cuts, guaranteeing the right to quality food for everyone in Belgium is far from a given. Social sectors are particularly hard hit, jeopardizing some progress in sustainable food systems, such as free school meals.

At the same time, public interest in food issues continues to grow. In this context, Iles de Paix participates in various local food security initiatives through its Mangu Sane program, implemented in Belgium (see page 28). These projects aim to put food back at the heart of societal issues, from a perspective of food democracy.

By bringing together all citizens around a localized and shared project and not just those experiencing hardship, this approach is designed to be systemic and inclusive. It relies on a mechanism of solidarity among the various actors in society, paving the way for sustainable solutions.

The desired mass effect sets in motion a virtuous cycle with multiple impacts: revitalization of the socio-economic fabric through new market opportunities for local producers, improved public health and, ultimately, environmental benefits.

Several concrete initiatives are already emerging, notably in Liège, Namur, Rochefort, and the province of Luxembourg. These are all promising experiments worth following.

When food becomes a driver of local development...

## Youth in action

At Iles de Paix, youth movements are key partners in raising awareness about fairer and more sustainable food systems. They bring together engaged young people, open to experimentation and collective reflection: they offer a framework for learning in a different way, by asking questions and having fun. Their great social diversity makes them a space where young people from varied backgrounds meet, enriching discussions on food, social justice and the environment.

This context makes them fertile ground for lifelong learning: young people develop their critical thinking skills while gradually becoming agents of change. Their collective functioning also creates a powerful multiplier effect: when a young person is made aware of an issue, this awareness can spread throughout their unit, their school, and their families. The impact then extends far beyond the group itself, contributing to the development of citizens capable of taking concrete action to transform society.

In 2025, Iles de Paix collaborated with the Belgian Scouts Federation, notably to finalize the pilot phase of the game "Across the Fields" offered to their young people. During the awareness and fundraising campaign, numerous units mobilized throughout the Walloon provinces and in Brussels.

A natural and high-quality partnership, founded on shared values such as solidarity, autonomy, responsibility and civic engagement.

## A course confirmed at the halfway point

The five-year “Feed Good” program has been implemented since 2022 in seven countries across Africa, Latin America and Belgium. It aims to strengthen the commitment of project leaders to sustainable food systems and a healthy environment. This is achieved through a series of actions structured around three main areas of intervention: support for sustainable production and trade dynamics, support for a favorable institutional and political framework, and support for social and civic initiatives (see pages 12–23). A significant awareness-raising component is also being developed in Belgium (see pages 24–28).

Midway through the program, interim evaluations were conducted in all participating countries, with the support of external evaluators. Their findings were consolidated and analyzed across different geographical areas, allowing for comparative analysis and the identification of common trends.

Beyond local specificity, several recommendations converge across the intervention areas: deepening knowledge of local markets, prioritizing crops with high nutritional value and strong local demand, strengthening the involvement of youth and women, streamlining online access to our educational resources, etc.

This process is part of a continuous and structured monitoring and evaluation system, combining external perspectives and internal analysis. It reflects our culture of learning, questioning and improving our practices.

## An NGO sector that lives up to expectations

Conducted in 2025, the screening of civil society organizations is part of the accreditation process carried out by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation. Its objective? To verify that these organizations have sufficiently robust management systems, given their level of complexity. Performed with the support of external experts, the analysis goes beyond simple administrative checks to offer a more comprehensive understanding of the organizations' operations, their structure and their capacity to be accountable for their actions.

The evaluation covers essential dimensions such as financial and strategic management, integrity, results-based management, partnerships, transversal themes (including gender), risk management and transparency.

Beyond individual results, this screening confirms a very positive dynamic within the sector, with an average management score of 93%. This figure reflects a continuous strengthening of practices and a growing level of professionalization. Within this group, some organizations stand out for their particularly high performance, notably Iles de Paix with a score of 99%.

This illustrates the strength and consistency of management systems within the sector. It is a mature sector, capable of managing resources both public and private with integrity, transparency, and a strong sense of responsibility, while integrating increasingly complex requirements.



# Interdependence between youth and sustainable food systems

**In the various countries where Iles de Paix operates, one observation is clear: young people represent considerable potential for change. They are a social force, already active in some places, bringing innovations, demands and practices that are transforming food systems. At the same time, the evolution of these systems directly influences the current lives and futures of these young people: their health, their rights, their economic prospects and their dignity. This relationship is reciprocal and deeply rooted in local realities.**

## A Diverse Youth

Youth is not defined by a single age. The "new generation" is a concept perceived differently in the countries where Iles de Paix operates. In Benin, for example, it begins in adolescence, at the time of entering the workforce. In Latin America, it is generally considered to be between 15 and 29 years old, while in Belgium, it encompasses adolescents up to the point of entering the workforce.

Behind the word "youth" lie a multitude of realities: children working on family farms, young farmers, market gardeners, students, young people from cities or rural areas... Some are seeking an income or dreaming of starting their own businesses, while others are simply trying to access adequate food.

This diversity requires rejecting any uniform approach. It calls for recognizing the knowledge, aspirations and constraints specific to each generation and each region.

## Engine of change

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Everywhere, young people are bearing the brunt of the consequences of current food systems: difficulty accessing healthy food, land pressure, land degradation, the effects of climate change, economic insecurity and more. In West Africa, they represent the majority of the population, while in East Africa, they even exceed 70%.

Despite their numbers, they have few resources to create value: limited access to land, credit and training (see page 17). Yet, they are at the heart of new agricultural dynamics: production (creation of school gardens – page 19), processing, marketing (the dynamics of an agroecological transition restaurant – page 13), digital innovation, organic inputs (see page 15) and the circular economy.

In Latin America, the massive rural exodus is making the next generation of farmers vulnerable within an ageing population. However, initiatives are emerging (see pages 20–23): meeting spaces for young entrepreneurs, the creation of micro-enterprises for processing, online sales and delivery services, etc. The expansion of the Iles de Paix programs into urban and peri-urban areas is also encouraging their involvement.

In Belgium, young people face growing food inequalities, student vulnerability (see analysis on page 26), and the rising cost of school meals, for example. As producers, young people encounter challenges such as a changing vocational education system, limited access to land and a still highly gendered agricultural sector.

Despite the obstacles, **all over the world, these young people are innovating, creating jobs, and getting involved.** In Belgium, they are denouncing unhealthy food around schools and defending the right to quality food. Internationally, they are mobilizing for land justice, food sovereignty and resource protection. Like every citizen, the **younger generation has rights:** the right to decent food, the right to a fair income, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them.

## Strategic Opportunity

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Making sustainable agriculture a modern and attractive sector is a key challenge for Iles de Paix. Connecting youth, innovation and markets represents **a significant opportunity to accelerate the agroecological transition.** This would create a virtuous cycle combining access to quality food for all, improved living conditions and environmental preservation.

To achieve this goal, Iles de Paix focuses on **capacity building**, supporting **young entrepreneurs** in structuring their businesses, and backing **sustainable economic initiatives** related to agroecology, processing, and organic inputs, among other things. **Promoting youth participation** in decision-making bodies and **integrating gender considerations** are also integral parts of this approach.

One thing is certain: this approach is built **with, for and by young people**, never in their stead. It recognizes their knowledge and their ability to transform their future. In a world where food challenges are intensifying, young people represent a unique force: numerous, creative, connected and grounded in their realities.

Making young people full partners in a fairer, more sustainable, and more inclusive food transition is the ambition that Iles de Paix has set for itself, particularly through its upcoming strategic plan for 2027–2037.



**Our manifesto for real and lasting change in food systems**

Actions & impacts

# Tanzania

The next generation  
in action



**7.464 people** actively involved  
in their own projects (♀ 66 %),  
+ 24 % increase compared to 2024



**57.691 people** members of  
organizations supported by the  
programs (♀ 59 %)



**758 livestock farmers** supported  
(poultry, pigs and goats)



**77 water reservoirs**  
built in 10 villages



**20 journalists** trained in raising  
awareness about sustainable food  
systems

## Sustainable reservoirs

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By 2025, many farming families in Arusha had strengthened their resilience to droughts thanks to water reservoirs installed in their villages. These large basins collect and store rainwater to irrigate crops when rainfall is scarce. Families received training in their construction, maintenance, water management during the dry season, irrigation planning, and the use of these reserves for their vegetables, fruit trees, or small livestock. Concrete changes have been observed, as Izack Alphayo, a farmer in Arusha, explains: *“Before the water reservoir, we only grew vegetables during the rainy season. Now, I can grow cabbage, kale, and amaranth year-round and even sell them at the market – it has completely changed our family’s diet.”* By improving their access to and use of water, families have increased their production throughout the year, diversified their diet and generated new income through surplus sales of their harvest.

## A restaurant at the heart of the transition

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Young people played a central role in 2025: they represent 25% of the farmers supported by projects and actively contribute to sustainable food systems, thanks to an approach tailored to their interests and skills. For example, 35-year-old entrepreneur Aika Mattemu demonstrates how a restaurant can become a driver of the agroecological transition. Through her brand, *Food as Medicine*, she offers cuisine that combines quality food, local culture, and well-being, relying on natural ingredients and recipes inspired by regional traditions. Aika has introduced several agroecological practices in her restaurant: composting organic waste, collaborating with farmers committed to environmentally friendly

practices, and selecting ingredients grown without chemical treatments. She has also created her own garden next to the restaurant, allowing her to grow some of her own vegetables, guarantee their freshness, and ensure the traceability of her dishes. She summarizes her experience as follows: *“The project gave me the knowledge and confidence to evaluate and implement agroecological business models using tools I co-created. My restaurant is now directly connected to the farmers who supply safe and natural food.”* By organizing art, music, and nutrition education events, her restaurant has become a space for exchange that raises awareness among customers especially young people about local food and agroecology. This approach has also allowed her to leverage tourism, which is important in Arusha, positioning agroecological cuisine as both culturally dynamic and commercially attractive.

## The Voice of Farming Families

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Several actions have been undertaken to enable farming families to have their voices heard in public decision-making. Farmers' organizations, supported by Iles de Paix, have participated in national meetings with authorities, parliamentary sessions, and forums dedicated to issues related to food systems, such as seeds, agroecological markets and sustainable food. These efforts have led to concrete results, such as the official recognition of 13 seed varieties cultivated and managed by farmers. The partners Mviwaarusha and Shiwakuta have played a vital role in this work. They have relayed the concerns of families to decision-makers and facilitated dialogue with them. Their needs have been given greater consideration in public discussions, contributing to the development of policies more favourable to sustainable food systems.



Discover the story of Aika, owner of  
Momm's Aikas Kitchen in Arusha

# Uganda

## Support entrepreneurship



**2.704 people actively involved**  
in their own projects ( ♀ 53 %)



**23.752 people members of**  
organizations supported  
by the programs ( ♀ 53 %)



**900 farming families supported**  
in the agroecological transition



**104 cooking demonstrations**  
conducted (17,000 people in total)



**13 programs on agroecology**  
and nutrition broadcast on local  
radio stations

*Manufacturing of smokers for beekeeping*

## The Potential of Tomatoes

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In the Rwenzori region, tomatoes play a vital role in family diets. To protect their crops from insects, diseases and humidity, most farmers still use chemical products, sometimes in large quantities. Their cost, impact on the taste and quality of the vegetables, and health risks are all negative consequences of their use. With the support of local partners (JESE, AID, and KRC), 250 producers including 100 young people cultivated tomatoes at six market garden sites, testing more environmentally friendly alternatives to protect the crops and regularly monitoring the plants' development to adapt their practices. In parallel, the partners supported the creation and improvement of small sales outlets located along busy roads. This provides residents with easier access to vegetables grown with fewer chemical residues. To enhance this visibility, the *Nzori Fresh* brand has been developed and is currently being registered with the municipality. It will allow consumers to more easily identify these products and further recognize the work of farming families in local markets.

## Two pathways for young people

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Since 2025, a new project has supported the economic activity of young entrepreneurs involved in poultry farming and beekeeping. Two groups of young people have been trained and mentored. They have received practical training in managing small-scale chicken or beehive farms, planning activities, and selling their products. To this end, two model farms have been established: one dedicated to poultry and the other to beekeeping. These serve as observation sites where young people learn, for example, how to organize livestock farming, improve animal feed, and ensure a reliable honey harvest. Each entrepreneur also received a starter kit containing the necessary equipment to begin or expand their business, such as poultry waterers and feeders or honey harvesting tools, according to their specific needs. Regular visits to their farms by Iles de Paix partners have allowed to adapt advice to their daily realities. In the agricultural sector, the Bulhalho Foundation has played a

central role: it supported the creation of two honey collection and sales centres. These centres allow young people to drop off their honey, check the quality of their batches, and sell their production more easily.

## A Story of Change

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Nathan Rwanyombya, 31 years old and father of two, lived by doing odd jobs and running a small business selling vegetables, bananas and sugarcane. These activities earned him the equivalent of €2.30 per day. After joining the Iles de Paix project, he received practical training in urban agriculture, business management and bookkeeping. He also received significant material support: a stall for selling agroecological products, crates, scales, a tarpaulin and gardening tools to develop his own production. Thanks to this support, Nathan and his family expanded their garden and opened a stall on the outskirts of the city where they sell local fruits and vegetables. They also source their produce from about sixty young urban farmers, ensuring a varied and regular supply for consumers. Keeping daily records now allows him to better track his profit margins and organize his purchases. His income has increased significantly: he now earns the equivalent of €9.20 per day. This stability has allowed him to invest in a small pond to diversify his business in fish farming. The growth of his business and his market gardening activity now provides Nathan and his family with greater financial security.



**Find out more about the integration of small-scale livestock farming in Uganda, through the "Cap alternatives paysannes" report published in 2025**

# Benin

When youth take control of their future



**8.030 people** actively involved in their own projects ( ♀ 53 %)



**13.899 members** of organizations supported by the programs ( ♀ 46 %)



**50 young people** supported in various agricultural activities



**1.451 families** (out of 740 targeted) made aware of agroecological practices



**Village Savings and Loan Associations** created in 15 villages

## Less hardship, more opportunities

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In Benin, agricultural work remains arduous and demanding, especially for women. To address this reality, a study conducted with female farmers tested simple and suitable tools, such as mini-hoes, carts and small tillers. Their introduction was gradual: demonstrations, trials on plots of land, and then practical training. This participatory approach allowed the women to choose the equipment best suited to their soil and physical strength. The results are evident: fatigue decreases, pain diminishes, and cultivated areas increase. *“Thanks to this equipment, we save time, exert less effort, and can cultivate more land. Production has increased, and we earn a better living”*, testifies Kouto Simbori, a farmer in Natitingou. By reducing the hardship, this approach opens up new perspectives for rural women, who gain autonomy and income.

## A local grocery store

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By 2025, the Natitingou grocery store (*Tidisaati Wébou*) had become a true landmark for consumers seeking local and agroecological products. Its operation relies on two local structures. On the one hand, OSCLoS, the *Monitoring Body for Local and Healthy Consumption*, ensures the quality of the products sold. It verifies that the food actually comes from agroecological practices and adheres to a self-monitoring system organized by local stakeholders. On the other hand, RACoLoS, the *Network of Actors for Local and Healthy Consumption*, brings together farmers, entrepreneurs, vegetable vendors and restaurateurs. This network creates a link between rural families and urban consumers, develops short supply chains, and organizes awareness campaigns to promote local food and food free of chemical residues. One major obstacle remained, however: the high cost of the marketing authorization, essential for selling processed products. Thanks to collective advocacy, this cost was drastically reduced, paving the way for small local businesses, often run by women or young people. This progress

now allows for a greater diversity of products in the grocery store, which has become much more than a commercial space: it is a place that values the work of farming families and a showcase for the agroecological transition.

## Inspire, Create, Undertake

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Beninese youth play a central role in transforming food systems. Aged between 17 and 35, these young people are striving to build their future, despite significant obstacles: lack of financial resources, difficult access to land, precarious living conditions, family pressure, or rural exodus to neighbouring countries, where wages are higher, but working conditions are physically demanding. *“Young people want to move very quickly, so when they start something, they want it to work immediately and see results*, emphasizes Anselme Dabiré, Country Director of Iles de Paix in Benin. To support them, Iles de Paix and its local partners, ERAD and JAB, focus on providing concrete support: training, advice on developing business plans, access to equipment, and the creation of peer networks. The goal is not to fully fund an entrepreneurial project, but to provide the initial impetus to make it viable. Many young people are developing small businesses such as processing local products, beekeeping, raising small ruminants, or manufacturing organic pesticides. Young people are also drivers of innovation. They use social media to exchange ideas, promote their products, and inspire other entrepreneurs. These initiatives are creating a new generation of actors capable of modernizing practices, providing local solutions, and strengthening their families' resilience.



Watch the report on World Food  
Safety Day (Beninese TV-french  
speaking)

# Burkina Faso

## Communities mobilized for a sustainable future



**4.249 people actively involved in their own projects ( ♀ 38 %)**



**2.188 people members of organizations supported by the programs ( ♀ 34%), + 15% increase compared to 2024**



**More than 50,000 people reached with awareness about local food through radio broadcasts**



**91 households have chicken coops (poultry = source of protein and income)**



**13 social dialogue workshops between authorities, local families, and displaced persons (1,230 participants)**

## Building Social Cohesion

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Since 2024, the “*Development–Peace Nexus*” approach implemented with partners AMR and ARFA has been helping to strengthen social cohesion in villages where local populations and displaced families, who have fled insecurity in their regions of origin, live together. The risk of conflict is ever-present, whether for cultural reasons or for access to natural resources (water, land, etc.). To support peaceful coexistence, Village Observatories have been supported by AMR and Iles de Paix, in collaboration with local authorities. Their members, who are representatives of the different communities, are trained to better understand conflict dynamics and learn simple methods of prevention, listening and mediation. With these tools, they are able to identify signs of disagreement, initiate dialogue before a situation escalates, and propose peaceful solutions acceptable to all parties. The year was also marked by Community Days, organized under the auspices of the High Commissioner of the province. The event brought together more than 1,500 participants – approximately 20% of whom were young people – from some twenty different ethnic and religious communities. For three days, they exchanged ideas, presented their cultural practices, and shared their culinary expertise. The young people (re)discovered typical dishes from the various communities – including their own – and will be able to promote them through entrepreneurial initiatives.

## Learning Through Cultivation

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School gardens have allowed students to discover farming practically. Teachers and volunteer students have been trained in agroecological techniques: soil preparation, the use of compost, sowing, judicious watering and plant care. These cultivated spaces have served as a learning ground for understanding the role of soil, water and natural fertilizers. Even if the garden harvests do not yet meet the needs of the school cafeterias, they supplement the students' diet and raise awareness among families. Moreover, some of the techniques

learned have already been replicated at home, and the children help their parents in the vegetable gardens. School gardens thus have a civic dimension. They pave the way for a broader understanding of sustainable food systems, enhance the value of farming, and encourage young people to consider new agricultural practices.

## Planning Together for Better Production

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In the Kouritenga province, 42 households have implemented the Integrated Farmer Plan (IFP). This participatory approach aims to organize agricultural and livestock activities in a simple and collective way. Together, family members define their priorities, plan the activities to be carried out, and monitor their results. This approach strengthens family cohesion and encourages the adoption of agroecological practices. *“The family has taken ownership of the tool. And every month, the children remind me that we need to consult the plan. Everyone benefits from the IFP. For example, now when I travel or am away, the children take care of the poultry and animals themselves”*, explains Moussa Koudougou from the Dialgayé commune. However, the farming families have encountered some difficulties. These challenges might include seeds purchased from local markets that germinated poorly, avian diseases requiring increased vigilance, or specific sanitary measures. In such situations, families were able to rely on trained and experienced farmers for advice, to share their knowledge, and hence contribute to the dissemination of agroecological innovations in the villages. Through the PIP (Integrated Pedagogical Project) and peer learning, families gain organization, autonomy and confidence, while consolidating their agroecological transition.

# Bolivia

## The added value of local alliances



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



**660 people** belonging to organizations supported by the programs ( ♀ 74 %)



**2 webinars** on Sustainable Food Projects (SFPs) organized (3,665 total views)



**200 different products** sold by Bolsaludable



**41.500 consumers** participating in 9 food fairs

## Participatory Guarantee

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The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is a certification method that guarantees the agroecological production of food. Unlike often costly private labels, the PGS relies on community involvement: farmers evaluate and support each other. They visit plots together, observe crops, and verify that agroecological principles are being respected. In Bolivia, this system is officially recognized by SENASAG, the public authority responsible for food safety. Thanks to this recognition, products certified through the PGS have legal status. In 2025, five active PGS systems enabled 165 families to obtain certification. The system requires time and organization for visits, communication and administrative follow-up but it strengthens trust between farmers and consumers. Consumers know where their food comes from, and producers have a credible certification that supports their efforts toward more sustainable agriculture.

## Food Seasonality

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Consumer demand doesn't always align with harvest reality. They expect to buy and cook the same vegetables year-round. However, in agroecology, vegetable production depends on seasonality and climate. Alongside this disconnect, a new generation is beginning to mobilize. A group of 11 young people, children of farming families, participated in fairs, shared awareness messages on social media, and hence helped raise awareness of the benefits of local and seasonal food. Launched by partner Agrecol Andes, the Bolsaludable initiative is an online sales and delivery service for organic products in which young people actively participate. While the parents focus on production, the children manage the digital aspects, communication, and innovation in the product offering. Thanks to the trends they spot on social media, they encourage the introduction of new products—colourful chard, unusual salad varieties, edible flowers—allowing families to expand their product range and reach more customers. In a region experiencing a significant rural exodus among young people, their commitment demonstrates that agroecology offers real opportunities for their generation.

## Municipalities: A Key Lever

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In the city of Sacaba (adjacent to Cochabamba), an inter-institutional committee was established to bring together the municipality, local organizations and farming families. Working together to promote quality food in the city, their collaboration led to the drafting of a new municipal law. This law officially recognizes agroecological practices and guarantees them resources and long-term regulatory support. In the municipalities of Cochabamba and Tolata, six women producers participated in the revision of the local authorities' annual budget program. Their involvement secured public support for their farming community: the installation of small irrigation systems, the provision of two power tillers, and the supply of seeds. These advances demonstrate a growing openness among political representatives to citizen participation and sustainable food systems. For these advances to truly take root, certain aspects will still need to evolve. On the one hand, the support provided so far remains sporadic: the challenge will be to encourage municipalities to integrate this issue more regularly into their policies and budgets. On the other hand, the inter-institutional committee will need to closely monitor the ongoing process of revising the law on agroecological production in Sacaba to verify its relevance to the needs, support its adoption, and ensure its effective implementation.

# Peru

## Young farmers in the spotlight



**2.251 people** actively involved in their own projects (♀ 50 %), + 15% increase compared to 2024



**4.435 people** members of organizations supported by the programs (♀ 53 %)



**84 hectares** of land dedicated to agroecological production, compared to 47 hectares in 2024



**More than 5,000 guinea pigs** raised by 65 families



**Network of 6 active and consolidated Puntos Verdes**

## Inspiring role models

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In Huánuco, 21 farming families have become local role models for their communities. Their plots of land, cultivated using sustainable agricultural methods, provide a concrete example of how these techniques are applied. They welcome visitors, share their experience, and support neighbouring producers in their own agroecological transition. Eleven of these families have even been recognized by their municipality for their role as role models and knowledge transfer agents. This dynamic is particularly relevant in a region marked by significant climate disruption, combining intense rainfall and prolonged droughts, which weakens crops. In this context, soil conservation practices, water management, and vegetable diversification become essential to strengthening families' resilience and building food systems capable of adapting to increasing climate variability.

## Support for economic initiatives

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In 2025, entrepreneurial activity and the development of short supply chains were significantly strengthened. On the one hand, 21 business training workshops were organized, bringing together 171 participants (113 women and 58 men). These workshops focused on business plan development, communication, post-harvest management, and food security. Following these workshops, 20 farmers will inaugurate the new *Punto Verde* – a local market dedicated to the sale of agroecological products – in the municipality of Pillco Marca. They will be able to set up a stall there and sell their products directly. On the other hand, a call for projects aimed at micro-enterprises was widely disseminated through universities, local radio stations and social media, to support their agroecological transition. The initiative generated considerable interest: 19 proposals were submitted, and five winners were selected from a variety of sectors (jams, honey, catering, etc.). They then received training tailored to their needs to develop their businesses.

## Making Way for the New Generation

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The meeting with young rural entrepreneurs was one of the highlights of 2025. Organized by partners IDEL, IDMA, and Islas de Paz Perú, the event brought together 47 young participants from different districts in the region. Five initiatives were showcased, including small animal farming, processing milk into finished products (cheese, yoghurt, etc.), and producing artisanal ice cream. These initiatives illustrate the diversity of agroecological activities undertaken by rural youth. Fabiola Abal Ponce, a guinea pig farmer, testifies to the event's success: "*When I presented my guinea pig farming experience at the youth meeting, I didn't think it would be so well received. I felt honoured, and I will continue on this path until I become a major supplier in Huánuco.*" Participants shared their experiences, discussed employment-related obstacles, and explored potential solutions. They emphasized the importance of improved access to information, tailored technical support, and closer collaboration with municipalities to promote agricultural careers, support young people interested in pursuing this path, facilitate access to financing, and reduce the pressure of migration to cities. In addition to this meeting, three young entrepreneurs participated in the 8th International Circular Economy Forum in Lima, where they presented their methods for processing local products using an agroecological approach. This participation provided national visibility for their work and highlighted the growing role of rural youth as key players in sustainable food systems.

# Belgium

**Informed citizens,  
at the heart of change**

In Belgium, Iles de Paix takes concrete action to transform food systems through several complementary approaches:

- ✦ **Raising awareness and fostering engagement:** by working in schools, mobilizing young people, and delivering powerful messages to policymakers and influential stakeholders.
- ✦ **Developing critical and active citizenship** through lifelong learning.
- ✦ **Mobilizing the Belgian population,** particularly through the annual campaign, a true driver of collective engagement.
- ✦ **Improving access to quality food:** by developing concrete initiatives in Wallonia and Brussels through the Mangu Sane program.

## CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

### **Raising Awareness, Mobilizing, Taking Action**

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Iles de Paix cultivates the training and mobilization of critical, engaged and solidarity-minded citizens. At the heart of this approach is Education for Global and Solidarity Citizenship. Through workshops, illustrated booklets, reports, flipped classrooms, lesson plans, games, murals, exhibitions, and more, Iles de Paix provides teachers with a range of free educational resources, accessible independently, by order, by download, or online.

In 2025, nearly 46,000 young people were directly engaged through our workshops and educational tools. The same is true for nearly 1,000 teachers. The impact also extends to nearly 14,000 additional adults reached through our publications (*Transitions*, *Phosphore*, *Cap alternatives paysannes*) or encountered at events. In addition to this, there is a large-scale public awareness campaign: last December, the "Let's Get Some Good Food" campaign reached nearly 1.2 million people.

At Iles de Paix, raising awareness also means long-term support. Through the *Move with Africa* program, young people participate in a year-long, in-depth training program. This program culminates in an immersion trip to an African country. In partnership with La Libre Belgique, Brussels Airlines, and several NGOs and youth organizations, this program aims to strengthen their understanding of the challenges of global citizenship and interculturalism. In 2024-2025, 15 young people and 3 youth leaders from the Havelange Youth Centre took part in this program, which included group and specialized workshops, as well as shared highlights, such as a weekend bringing together all the participants of the *Move with Africa* program.



### **Young Explorers**

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In 2025, Iles de Paix invited primary school teachers and students to embark on a captivating journey into the heart of the secrets of our food system.

Becoming explorers of sustainable food systems, the children discover and decipher essential themes: agricultural production, respect for nature, and solidarity with farmers, both locally and globally. Through immersive activities tailored to their age, they develop a critical perspective on their food choices and their environmental and societal impacts.

By taking action through concrete initiatives (establishing a school garden, creating a cookbook of local and seasonal recipes, or launching an awareness campaign), the students become engaged and agents of change. This initial pilot project has been available to all primary schools in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation since the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

## LIFELONG LEARNING

### **Towards Active Citizenship**

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Through the provision of studies, analyses, and sociocultural tools, lifelong learning aims to foster critical and active citizenship among adults. In this regard, 2025 was a prolific year: one study, two educational tools, and no fewer than 19 analyses. These address topics such as sustainable food systems and agroecology, international cooperation and our Mangu Sane project (see page 28).



In parallel, Iles de Paix developed *Unlock Good Food*, a cooperative escape game in the form of a card game, inspired by *Unlock*. The game's objective is to promote food systems that are fair and respectful of both people and the environment. Fun and immersive, this game sparks debate. It invites

young people and adults to reflect on their consumption habits and their role in the food transition, while stimulating their critical thinking and civic engagement.

Through diverse settings from the kitchen to the farm, via the grocery store and the school cafeteria, participants explore the multifaceted nature of food: the role of producers, sustainability challenges and the economic constraints faced by households. Alongside the globalized, industrial offerings of supermarkets, they discover local and more sustainable alternatives. By solving riddles and puzzles, they gradually grasp how access to sustainable food can become a collective achievement.

## ADVOCACY AND CAPITALIZATION

### **Food Transition Under Pressure**

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In recent years, the European Union has played a leading role in the transition to more sustainable food systems, with ambitious policies linking agriculture, climate and biodiversity. However, since 2023, a setback has been observed: under the impact of economic, geopolitical and agricultural crises, several measures have been weakened or called into question, revealing the fragility of this transition.

In Belgium, despite favourable local dynamics, the reduction and uncertainty of public funding are hindering grassroots actors and jeopardizing the sustainability of civil society initiatives. In this context, continuing our awareness-raising, analysis, and networking activities remains essential to supporting the transition of food systems.

In 2025, Iles de Paix's international reach was strengthened with its membership in the Agroecology Coalition, opening up new avenues for exchange and collaboration in support of more sustainable food systems. As part of lifelong learning initiatives, the *Phosphore* collection (produced in partnership with Humundi and Autre Terre) has also contributed to public debate. The 2025 issue focused on the impacts of European seed regulations. Distributed at several events in Tournai, Evere and Namur, it helped to identify the links between European policies and agricultural realities. The next issue in the collection focuses on the role of large retailers in the food transition.



**Dive into these two issues of *Phosphore*. Clear and accessible analyses of food policy issues.**

## CAMPAIGN

### Acting together for a more united world

For 55 years, the Iles de Paix fundraising and awareness campaign has been a major annual event for solidarity. A true driver of civic engagement, it forges a link between the Belgian population and our international project partners, all of whom are agents of change.

Beyond fundraising, the campaign raises awareness of the challenges facing food systems worldwide. It also strengthens social cohesion around a shared vision and mobilizes all links in the chain of solidarity in support of the right to sustainable food for all.

This deeply human dynamic relies on everyone's involvement in this civic movement, so dear to Iles de Paix.



In 2025, the mobilization was once again a resounding success: volunteers, schools, youth groups, buyers, donors, as well as the media and press, all contributed significantly to its success. No fewer than 32 new geographical areas joined the movement in Wallonia and Brussels. In a climate that encourages isolation, it's incredibly rewarding to see such dedicated individuals within our volunteer network, ready to give their time and energy to a shared goal!

While no new items were introduced in 2025, the plan table module received a fresh new look, and other items were made available for purchase: bracelets, reusable food wrap and modules. These little "figures" remain the campaign's emblem and account for 47% of merchandise sales. Furthermore, QR code payments continue to grow (+57%), facilitating transactions and generating more sales.

These adaptations reflect a clear commitment: to continue innovating the campaign to foster even greater citizen engagement.

A goal achieved in 2025!

### ✕ Want to join this citizens' movement?

Volunteer in Wallonia  
and Brussels:  
[campagne@ilesdepaix.org](mailto:campagne@ilesdepaix.org)



Curious about the  
Iles de Paix annual  
campaign? Watch this!

## MANGU SANE

### Breeding ground for change

In Belgium, over 600,000 people rely on food aid to feed themselves. This figure has doubled in 10 years. Fresh produce is rarely available. Yet, farmers and market gardeners are numerous throughout the country, and most often struggle to sell all their produce.

What if solidarity-based mechanisms could ensure sustainable access to healthy food for everyone? This quest for social innovation is being pursued through the Mangu Sane program ("eat healthy" in Esperanto). Involvement in the creation of a solidarity grocery store, support for an alternative farm model, development of food security,

dynamism within food belts, local advocacy, and more are just a few examples of the initiatives that began to emerge in 2025 (see focus on page 8).

One initiative in particular stood out in 2025 for the program: the one led by the non-profit organization "*Jardins d'à côté*" (JADAC). In Jambes, in the Namur region, JADAC cultivates more than 70 varieties of organic vegetables in the backyards of private individuals. Residents can purchase vegetables through a subscription system, with prices varying according to income, thus fostering a mechanism of solidarity among the "consumers." Following this basic principle, Iles de Paix and JADAC combined their expertise in 2025 to promote access to quality food for people in precarious situations, notably by subsidizing half the price of the subscription (or the cost of food purchased at retail).

The first step in the Iles de Paix project is to develop local roots: awareness campaigns, street sales with JADAC vegetables, participation in neighbourhood parties and other events, and networking with local stakeholders. In 2025, three cooking workshops (in partnership with the *Maison de l'Alimentation Durable* in Namur) brought together various people participating in the Mangu Sane project.

In total, more than one hundred people purchased JADAC's produce in 2025. In addition, approximately 360 one-off purchases were made by asylum seekers at the neighbouring Red Cross centre. While the quality of the produce is widely recognized, regular access to fresh vegetables remains uneven, particularly among vulnerable populations. This is why the program supports the solidarity fund established by the producer. It allows those who need it most to access vegetables at a reduced price.



# Luxembourg

## Raising Awareness and Solidarity in Action

*Alternative gourmet walk*

Cultivating critical thinking and encouraging civic engagement in the Grand Duchy are integral to the missions of Iles de Paix Luxembourg.

In 2025, numerous awareness-raising activities were conducted, targeting both young people and the general public. In Luxembourgish primary and secondary schools, these took the form of workshops, educational programs, and meetings organized during themed weeks such as Green Days and Sustainable Week.

The general public was also widely engaged through various events: screenings of the film "Sur le Champ !" (On the Fields), the "Chroniques Climatiques" exhibition, notably presented at the "Resilient Territories" festival, and the launch of a first trans-media campaign entitled "Tell me what you eat... I'll tell you what future you're nourishing".

In parallel, another equally essential form of mobilization was expressed through the support of numerous Luxembourgish donors – individuals, municipalities, foundations and businesses. Each one of us, in our own way, contributed to strengthening this momentum of international solidarity in 2025. We thank them all!

Thanks to this collective mobilization, the support of loyal and new partners, and the co-financing from the Luxembourg ministries (Foreign and European Affairs on the one hand, and the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development on the other), six programs were once again supported in Africa and Peru, not to mention the global citizenship education program conducted in Luxembourg.



**Watch the documentary**  
**« Sur le champs ! »**

### **Iles de Paix Luxembourg**

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Tax deduction starting from €120 per year



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## Financial Transparency

2025 ended with a deficit of €246,433, a more balanced result than anticipated in the budget. This outcome is primarily due to lower-than-expected internal revenue resulting from a challenging economic and political climate, and institutional funding that was not approved by one of our donors. The deficit was managed by reducing staff costs at headquarters and adapting the action plan during the year.

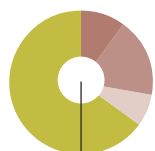
In 2025, 89% of resources were allocated directly to programs implemented in Belgium and internationally, while the remaining 11% (3% less than in 2024) covered general operating expenses and fundraising activities.

## Ethics at the heart of Iles de Paix

For several years, the NGO has maintained a Code of Ethics and Conduct, as well as a complaints management procedure. This code defines Iles de Paix's commitments to integrity. "Integrity" is understood to encompass the fight against fraud and corruption (financial integrity) on the one hand, and against moral or sexual harassment on the other (physical and psychological integrity). In practical terms, any breach of one of the Code's eight pillars can trigger the reporting process, leading to a complaint and both internal and external follow-up with the relevant authorities.

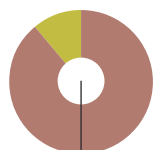
In 2025, four integrity-related complaints were submitted through available channels, including via the email address [integrity@ilesdepaix.org](mailto:integrity@ilesdepaix.org). Appropriate measures were taken, and an internal control process was strengthened with a view to continuously improving integrity.

## How are resources used at Iles de Paix?



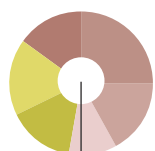
### Distribution of Income

- 10 % Campaign and related actions
- 18 % Donations, bequests and miscellaneous
- 7 % Private financing (companies and foundations)
- 65 % Publics financing



### Global distribution of Expenses

- 89 % Direct costs
- 11 % Overhead Costs



### Distribution of Expenses by Country

- 25 % Belgium and Luxembourg
- 17 % Benin
- 11 % Burkina Faso
- 15 % Peru and Bolivia
- 17 % Tanzania
- 15 % Uganda

### Annual donation distribution



62,3 % of one-time donations



37,7 % of monthly donations

### Income

#### Own Funding

Campaign and related actions	547.367 €
Donations, bequests and miscellaneous	976.470 €

#### Financing

Private Financing (companies and foundations)	415.572 €
Public Financing	3.553.315 €

**Total 5.492.724 €**

### Expenses

#### International Programs:

Benin	985.746 €
Burkina Faso	620.964 €
Peru and Bolivia	836.242 €
Tanzania	1.001.409 €
Uganda	852.528 €

#### Programs en Europe

Global Citizenship Education (GCE) and Advocacy	908.359 €
Fundraising (Belgium)	319.137 €
Fundraising and Awareness-Raising (Luxembourg)	75.632 €
Mangu Sane	139.139 €

**Total 5.739.156 €**

> These figures will be presented to the General Assembly in June 2026 for approval



You have been  
by our side  
throughout 2025.

Thank you  
for your support.



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