

DEVLOP'RA

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF LOUVAIN COOPÉRATION



**ROOTS FOR THE FUTURE
OUR SPECIAL FEATURE
ON MANGROVES**



Our commitment to the sustainable development of mangroves

Mangroves are dense forests of intertwined stilt-like trees, situated between land and sea in intertropical zones. This magnificent and unique ecosystem accounts for less than 0.03% of the world's land area, which may seem rather insignificant. And yet!

Mangroves provide exceptional ecosystem services (those famous benefits that ecosystems provide to humans free of charge). It is for these reasons, and because mangroves are under pressure and at risk of disappearing, that Louvain Coopération has been committed to their sustainable development since 2006.

Our mission, in collaboration with our partners and local communities, is first and foremost to strengthen the participatory management of these ecosystems. We also focus on informing and raising awareness among local communities, young people and local decision-makers about the importance of mangroves and how to protect them.

We pay particular attention to their sustainable use by the communities that depend on them, by developing economic activities compatible with this environment, such as beekeeping and ecotourism. Finally, we support local restoration (primarily reforestation) and conservation initiatives.

In the following pages, you will discover all these initiatives, including a PhD thesis on the socio-ecological resilience of mangroves at the University of Namur... where mangroves were present over 300 million years ago. A link to our past and, perhaps, our future, which makes mangroves even more precious in my eyes!



Vincent Henin
Project Monitoring Officer and
Programme Co-ordinator
for the Uni4Coop mangrove
programme

DEVLOP'RA



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HEALTH, AGRIFOOD, EDUCATION,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP: OUR IMPACT IN 2025




DEVLOP'RA
Highlights of the Louvain Coopération Annual Report [N°2 - MAY 2026]

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 We live on a planet with limited resources. For this reason, all Louvain Coopération publications are printed on PEFC-certified paper (European Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) using vegetable-based inks.



Mangroves the forests that protect the planet

Although often overlooked, mangroves are among the planet's most valuable ecosystems. As reservoirs of biodiversity, natural defences against storms and powerful carbon sinks, these coastal forests are vital to local communities and the global climate. Threatened by human activity and climate change, they are now at the heart of conservation efforts.

At first glance, they look like ordinary forests. Of course, their roots, which reach out into the inlets, give them a beauty all of their own. But to discover their true richness, you have to get up close, mooring your boat on the sand, right in the heart of the mangroves. There, you'll find species you won't see anywhere else: the Caribbean fiddler crab or the jumping fish, capable of climbing trees in West Africa.

These mangrove forests, found along tropical coastlines, harbour incredible biodiversity. Endemic species adapted to this salty, muddy environment thrive there, whilst their roots form a veritable nursery where billions of marine species (fish,

crabs, birds, reptiles...) find food and shelter.

A natural barrier

Like natural barricades lining the coast, mangroves protect the land from the force of winds and waves, particularly during extreme weather events. Their roots also act as a filter, making the seawater hospitable for coral reefs and other seagrass beds.

These forests also protect the surrounding communities and human activities. They provide food, firewood and timber, whilst countless fishing families depend on the marine resources they harbour.

Weapons against climate change

Mangroves protect the coasts, but also the planet as a whole. As Constant Sètondé Gnansounou, a Doctor of Science and mangrove specialist, explains: *"They play a key role in the fight against climate change by sequestering a considerable amount of carbon. The literature suggests that mangroves sequester three to five times more carbon than terrestrial forests, for example."*

A gradual and worrying decline

Globally, the total area of mangroves is relatively small: 147,000 km², and this area is shrinking every year, with a total loss of 40% since the 1960s. As early as 2007, several scientists considered that mangroves were critically endangered or facing extinction in 26 of the 120 countries that have them.

The primary cause of the gradual extinction of mangroves is deforestation, linked to the demand for timber, the creation of cropland, urban development and shrimp farming, an activity that is highly destructive to these forests. Pollution and climate change are also responsible for their disappearance.

Today, 42% of mangroves are located in protected areas, and programmes such as those run by Louvain Coopération are attempting to save this global treasure.

Restoration and sustainable use

Louvain Coopération works to protect mangroves in Madagascar and Benin. It collaborates with other Belgian university NGOs within the Uni4Coop consortium, which also operate in other regions such as Senegal and Guinea.

The aim is to improve socio-ecological resilience in mangrove ecosystems – that is, their ability to cope with crises and reorganise themselves to sustain them-

selves, from both a social and ecological perspective. In practical terms: carrying out reforestation campaigns, promoting their sustainable use through economic activities that respect these forests, and limiting overfishing. The challenge lies in protecting the mangroves whilst ensuring the well-being of the communities that depend on them.

To take these ideas further, Louvain Coopération (through Uni4Coop) helped establish the Belgian socio-ecological resilience network, SECORES. Its mission is to improve knowledge in this field, to place this issue at the heart of political agendas through advocacy, and to foster synergies between the relevant stakeholders.

Mangroves in figures

0,7%
tropical forests
are mangroves

147 000 km²
total area

4,1 millions
fishermen depend
on mangroves

40%
of the world's mangroves
have disappeared since
1960

FEATURE



BENIN

Local communities on the front line

In southern Benin, mangroves have lost a quarter of their total area in just a few decades. With support from Louvain Coopération and its partners, local communities are now working to restore them, develop sustainable alternatives and revitalise fish stocks.

Benin's two main mangrove areas are located in the Atlantic Department (the municipalities of Ouidah, Abomey-Calavi and Kpomassé) and the Mono Department (the municipalities of Grand Popo, Comé and Bopa).

These areas are particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that deforestation and climate change led to the loss of 25% of Benin's mangroves between 1980 and 2006, with direct consequences for fishing activities. Since the 2000s, a growing awareness seems to have slowed this destruction. In collaboration with our partners, Action Plus and Eco-Bénin, and local communities, we are part of this movement and are working to restore these forests and establish sustainable, income-generating activities that preserve their long-term viability, such as salt farming.



Sustainable salt

For many years, women living in mangrove areas have developed a unique expertise in salt production, obtained by evaporating seawater. This activity represents a significant source of income for families, but it requires firewood and therefore leads to deforestation.

In collaboration with the National Higher Institute of Industrial Technology (INSTI) in Lokossa, we have been working on alternative energy solutions. *"They collected technical data on salt production and the types of stoves used, carried out an in-depth review of studies on the subject and assessed energy demand. A more energy-efficient salt production model was designed and trialled in 2025. This involves solar salt, obtained by evaporating seawater on a tarpaulin laid out in the sun,"* explains Richard Ayelesso, technical assistant at Louvain Coopération in Benin. Today, our challenge is to convince salt producers to switch to this production method, notably by providing suitable equipment and raising their awareness of the impacts of climate change. It should be noted that INSTI is also working on the development of eco-friendly charcoal (made from paspalum and typha) and stoves adapted for this charcoal.



Bring fish back

Another issue facing these areas is the sharp decline in fish catches, despite the fact that most families depend on fishing for their livelihood. In 2023, we supported local communities in creating drainage networks at two mangrove restoration sites on the shores of Lake Ahémé. *"These channels facilitate plant growth and the dispersal of mangrove seeds, and act as a physical barrier against bushfires and cattle grazing,"* explains Richard. *"Furthermore, they serve as a breeding and nursery area for fish stocks and encourage fish repopulation, thereby improving fishing yields."* The fishermen's accounts are consistent: *"We haven't returned to the catches of our ancestors, but the nets are coming up fuller."*

Local residents come to the mangroves' rescue

In Benin, there is a range of laws and regulations in place to protect mangroves. Illegal felling of mangroves can result in heavy fines or even imprisonment. However, challenges linked to a lack of awareness, insufficient resources, poor coordination between institutions and land tenure issues are hampering their enforcement at a local level. In the Mono Biosphere Reserve, we are working with our partners to develop a mobile app that serves as an early warning system, as well as a record of local flora and fauna.

The principle is simple: local residents record and pinpoint instances of mangrove damage, and this data is passed on to the authorities to increase monitoring of at-risk areas. Furthermore, the information gathered on flora and fauna forms a valuable database for research and documentation of life within this ecosystem.

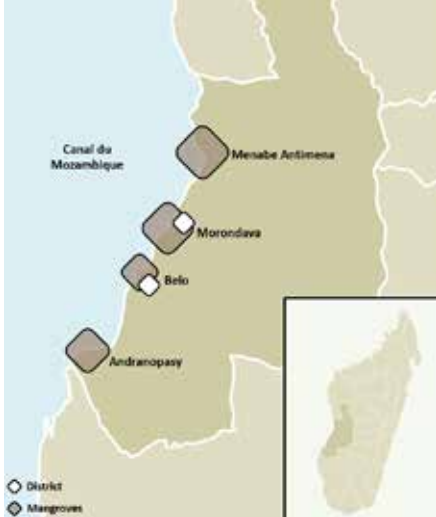
Four years of research into mangroves

Constant Setondé Gnansounou has just successfully defended his thesis at

UNamur. Now a Doctor of Science, he has been conducting research for the past 10 years into mangroves, their resilience and the conditions necessary for their sustainability, despite the impact of human activity on the environment.

See here
the results
of the search
↳





MADAGASCAR

Preserving mangroves to save small-scale fishing

In Madagascar, mangroves play a vital role for biodiversity, fisheries and coastal communities. But in the Menabe region, this ecosystem is under threat from human activity and climate change. Together with its partners, Louvain Coopération is working with local communities to raise awareness of the over-exploitation of marine resources and develop sustainable alternatives.

Madagascar is particularly rich in mangroves: 310,000 hectares of the island are covered by them, 25,000 of which are located in the Menabe region, Louvain Coopération's area of operation in the south-west of the country. But this wealth is dwindling: since the mid-1990s, 25% of Madagascar's mangroves have disappeared.

In Menabe, 500 hectares are lost every year. Repeated droughts have caused significant migration towards the coast, exacerbating an already high population pressure. Mangrove forests there are being cleared to make way for crops (rice paddies, sugar cane, etc.) and to harvest wood for heating or construction.

Direct consequences for the fishing industry

The destruction of mangroves inevitably has an impact on fish stocks and, consequently, on fishing. Since 2024, Louvain Coopération has been working with the Institute of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and the consultancy firm Magnirike to ana-

lyse and understand the use of these resources, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of both mangroves and small-scale fisheries. *"Initially, we drew up a monitoring plan and selected five representative villages, where we set up the fisheries monitoring programme,"* explains Franceline Rasoanirina, a research officer at Magnirike, who supervised the fieldwork carried out by the researchers. *"This monitoring was organised in a participatory manner, involving a census of fishing catches and household interviews to bet-*

ter understand their needs and incomes." In total, 172 fishermen responded and nearly 4,000 catch records were collected. The compiled results of these various surveys highlighted extreme overfishing in certain villages. *"Poverty drives this overfishing,"* Franceline explains further. *"The communities cannot afford to move away from fishing; the fishermen have nothing else to live on..."*

Other means of livelihood

The next phase of this project involves presenting the results of the various analyses to the communities and working with them to identify solutions. One of the options being considered is the development of alternative income-generating activities, such as beekeeping or short-cycle livestock farming, in order to reduce the pressure on marine resources. *"We have planned a trial phase for these economic activities, followed by close monitoring of their progress."*



Making a living from mangrove honey

A rare honey with an exceptional flavour. This is yet another gift from the mangroves. When mangrove trees are healthy, their flowers yield a substantial amount of honey. Beekeeping therefore provides a source of income for families, but also serves as an incentive to protect this ecosystem.

Since 2024, we have been working to develop this sector in Menabe. *"Linking*



conservation efforts to tangible economic benefits is an effective strategy for community motivation," comments Haja Ramanantsialonina, Director of Louvain Coopération in Madagascar. *"However, in this region, it is not customary to keep bees. At first, the locals thought it was enough simply to place the colonies in hives and wait for the honey to be produced. Developing the beekeeping sector therefore requires sustained support."*

In collaboration with the Menabe Region's Technical Livestock Service, we have therefore produced a booklet on improved beekeeping practices. Thirty-five people attended practical training sessions and received equipment to improve their beekeeping activities. In addition, a honey processing unit has been set up in Belo-sur-Tsiribihina, with the aim of structuring the sector and improving its profitability. Today, 82 people are actively involved in beekeeping in the area following these training sessions. They have already been able to sell the fruits of their harvests.

Balancing conservation and socio-economic development

Today, protecting mangroves involves striking a balance between conservation and socio-economic development. The resilience of these coastal forests therefore depends on an integrated approach: actively restoring degraded areas, harnessing local knowledge and diversifying livelihoods to reduce pressure on natural resources. By combining innovation (such as solar salt production or improved beehives), community awareness-raising and the strengthening of legal frameworks, Louvain Coopération is helping to safeguard this global treasure.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continue to broaden the scope of possibilities

Dear friends of Louvain Coopération,

This annual report holds particular significance for me: it is the last one I have the honour of introducing as President of Louvain Coopération. It comes at a pivotal moment, in a world beset by geopolitical, environmental and social crises that are profoundly reshaping international cooperation.

In this shifting landscape, public funding is becoming scarcer, competition between organisations is intensifying and new forms of partnership are emerging — ones that are more horizontal, decolonial and demanding. NGOs must rethink their models and strengthen their alliances to maintain and amplify their impact.

Faced with these challenges, we have chosen boldness and innovation. Guided by our strategic plan, a detailed analysis of sector developments and experience in the field, we have harnessed the collective intelligence of our teams, partners, governing bodies and the academic communities with whom we collaborate. This momentum has enabled us to receive a very positive evaluation from the Belgian development cooperation, to renew our accreditation for 10 years, and to commit resolutely to formulating a new 2027–2031 programme, which represents a profound renewal compared to the one ending in 2026.

At the same time, Louvain Coopération has continued its work with the communities we serve. In this 2025 report, you will discover several notable achievements: the Observatory of Women's

Entrepreneurship, the forthcoming launch of the C.ALL journal, and the completion of major projects related to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, gender-specific diseases and early pregnancies in Benin.

As my second term comes to an end, I want to express my pride in the progress we have made over these eight years. This progress is the result of the commitment of each and every one of you, and I thank you most sincerely for it. Despite the uncertainties, I have complete confidence in our organisation's human, technical and financial capabilities to advance its missions and strengthen its impact both in Belgium and in the Global South.

I hope that reading this 2025 report will share my enthusiasm and confidence in the future with you and convince you that, now more than ever, LC has a role to play and that you are part of this adventure.



Thierry de Waha,
President of Louvain Coopération

2025 IN FIGURES



* Unlike last year, this figure does not include large-scale media campaigns aimed at promoting health, but only those people who are fully involved in activities organised as part of the projects.

Staying the course in an uncertain environment

2025 began with the M23 movement's invasion of South Kivu, affecting local communities, our teams and our projects. It was with great composure, resilience and courage that our colleagues faced and managed the resulting challenges, as LC is implementing two major projects in the health and food security sectors in this area. After a few weeks of suspension, the emergencies were dealt with and planned activities resumed.

Geopolitical upheavals and questions surrounding international cooperation and its priorities have led us to continue the reflection and questioning we began whilst drafting our strategic plan. We have reviewed the relevance of our areas of intervention and the organisation of our teams in order to strengthen our impact whilst prioritising operational efficiency.

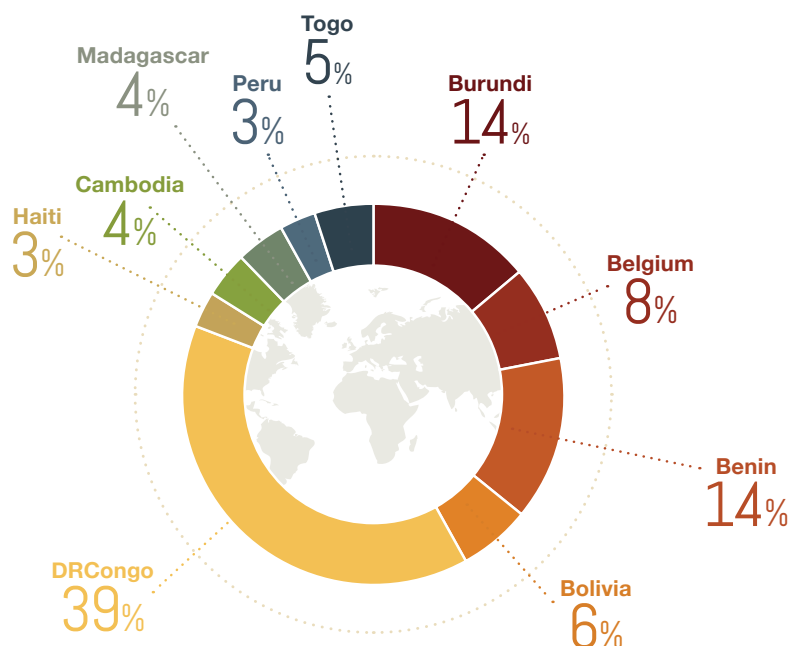
Despite this changing context, we were able to generate a profit of just under €100,000 in 2025, thanks to the diligence of our

teams worldwide, the optimisation of our resources and particular frugality in expenditure at our headquarters in Belgium.

As part of the EU FIL project, which aims to award grants to Congolese civil society organisations, we planned this year to reassess the risks of certain accounting documents being deemed ineligible; this is why our provisions in 2025 increased significantly, reaching a total of €220k.

Furthermore, it should be noted that we have successfully passed the 'overall screening' organised by the DGD, achieving an overall score of 4.93/5 and 4.69/5 for the financial screening; this places us in the TOP 10 of accredited Belgian NGOs. A result that therefore reflects external and independent recognition of our soundness in terms of financial management.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



SOURCE OF FUNDS

Employment support	539 806 €
Enabel	153 850 €
University of Louvain	247 359 €
EU	2 125 659 €
DGD	4 428 082 €
Other public funding bodies	354 013 €
Donations and fundraising	315 699 €
Businesses	423 000 €
Foundations	446 726 €
Other grants	311 215 €
Valuations	112 376 €
Partner's own contribution	177 491 €
TOTAL	9 635 276 €

INCOME STATEMENTS

Our income statement is still subject to approval by our governing bodies. It will be available on page 26 of our Annual Report from 19 June.





HEALTH SYSTEMS

By promoting Resilient Health Systems, Louvain Coopération aims to ensure equitable and inclusive access to quality care. This involves revitalising primary healthcare and empowering communities, with a view to improving public health indicators. LC adopts an integrated, person-centred approach, encompassing health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, underpinned by adequate funding and effective governance.

The fight against teenage pregnancy

In Benin, early pregnancy still affects nearly one in five teenage girls (UNICEF). This phenomenon reduces girls' educational attainment, as they generally drop out of school if they become pregnant. In 2025, we completed a pilot project* aimed at using community health mutuals as intermediaries to provide information to teenage girls and boys on sexual and reproductive health. Several young people have undergone training and regularly lead information sessions within their schools, with the aim of breaking down the taboos surrounding sex. Sorotori Gnantcha, Headteacher, explains: *"We have really worked to reduce the number of pregnancies within the school. Today, we see that there are more girls in the first cycle than boys, and most of the girls who progress to the second cycle no longer drop out. Last year, in the A-levels, we had more girls admitted than boys."* The mutuals play an essential preventive role in regions where issues related to sexuality are still heavily taboo

* Project funded by WBI and implemented by the Mutualités libres and LC



BENIN

→ 2,260

WOMEN AND TEENAGE GIRLS SCREENED FOR BREAST CANCER, INCLUDING 15 SUSPECTED CASES REFERRED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

CAMBODIA



Collaborative care for mental health

The Cambodian population is severely affected by mental health issues, with 28% of cases involving post-traumatic stress disorder in 2019. This is a legacy of the Khmer Rouge, exacerbated by socio-economic difficulties. Access to appropriate care remains very limited, particularly in rural areas. To address this, we run programmes that integrate mental health into primary care and strengthen local support. A collaborative care model adapted to the local culture. Pheareak's story illustrates these challenges: due to a lack of care, he had been locked away by his family. Thanks to the intervention of a partner and appropriate support, his condition has improved.

↘ 480

NEW PATIENTS TREATED FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

"Tú decides" to inform young people about their health and rights

In Bolivia, social and regional inequalities restrict access to healthcare, particularly for young people and women. Services providing information and prevention support in the areas of sexual, reproductive and mental health remain inadequate, and these challenges are exacerbated by income disparities and the geographical isolation of certain areas. In La Paz, our partner CIES ran the 'Tú decides' campaign to inform young people about their health and rights through peer education. The programme includes sexuality education, policy advocacy, the prevention of gender-based violence and support for young people. In 2025, 276 teenagers supported by the project engaged with other young people in schools, universities, at events and online to help them make informed decisions on the subject and to promote safe spaces. In total, more than 9,500 young people were reached through this campaign.



BOLIVIA

→ 31

SCHOOLS SUPPORTED IN EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS FOCUSING ON THE RIGHT TO HEALTH AND TO A LIFE FREE FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SYSTEMS

Louvain Coopération promotes inclusive entrepreneurial systems to enhance individuals' economic independence by fostering social and professional integration, decent work and the employment of young people and women. The aim is to boost competitiveness, growth and job creation through a robust and dynamic ecosystem.

A spark of creativity to launch socio-cultural projects

In September 2025, Louvain Coopération launched the “Creative Spark” project to support young people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in developing socio-cultural projects. This initiative encourages the emergence of talent and projects with a significant social impact in the creative economy sector, through support that includes mentoring, training, financial assistance and networking with key players in the sector. It also contributes to the personal development of young people and the strengthening of social cohesion. To date, an initial cohort of 37 young people has already been selected and is receiving support. Beyond this support, “Étincelle créative” forms part of a wider scheme to support local organisations: by encouraging innovation and engaging young people, the project helps to build positive and sustainable momentum for social and cultural development in the DRC.



DRC

→ 1 159
YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS RECEIVING SUPPORT.



HAITI



Opening the doors to a future for young people

In Haiti, and particularly in the capital, Port-au-Prince, hundreds of thousands of children are living in unimaginable conditions. The violence perpetrated by armed gangs currently operating in the country is driving people onto the streets, whilst child trafficking networks are on the rise. On the ground, our partner Timkatec takes in children left to fend for themselves and opens the door to a future for them through training. Taken in from the age of 10, and sometimes a little younger, the children are fed, cared for and housed. They then join the association's school centre where they learn to read and write, and follow a condensed programme to catch up on their studies. Later, they join the centre's vocational school, where they can choose a trade from the various courses on offer. Despite these circumstances, some manage to succeed, finding a job or setting up their own small business. Claudia, a former student of dressmaking and beauty therapy at Timkatec, now runs a beauty salon. She also teaches beauty therapy at the association.

↗ 130
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED
BY SOCIAL WORKERS.



Supporting Peruvian women, against gender inequality

In Peru, the current situation is characterised by significant social inequalities and the exclusion of women from economic channels and decision-making forums. Louvain Coopération and its partners therefore support Peruvian women in developing their entrepreneurial skills (economic, social and decision-making) by offering various training courses and workshops aimed at reducing gender inequalities. In Puno and Arequipa, 215 women have been supported by our partners Ceder and El Taller. With Ceder, 74 women attended various training workshops on business management, decision-making and equality in family and professional life, and with El Taller, 141 women were trained in self-esteem development, communication and marketing. Thanks to these initiatives, women are strengthening their presence in public spaces, local government and leadership roles. They are making their voices heard, and this contributes in the long term to improving gender equality.



PERU

→ 215
WOMEN SUPPORTED TO IMPROVE
THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR STANDING
IN SOCIETY.



SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

Louvain Coopération promotes sustainable agricultural and food systems with a view to maximising societal impact across environmental, social and economic dimensions, by bringing together all stakeholders, elements and activities linked to value chains.

MADAGASCAR



→ 200

WOMEN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF SOLIDARITY-BASED SAVINGS GROUPS TAKE PART IN TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES AND RECEIVE SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND EQUIPMENT.

Cooperatives to improve the lives of producers

In Madagascar, bringing small-scale producers together in cooperatives is a key way to boost their incomes. Together, they are better placed to negotiate prices, process their produce further, and access training on value creation. Louvain Coopération supports agricultural and fishing cooperatives. In the agricultural sector, 19 organisations with a total of 400 members are federated within the F3M. The F3M organises activities, training and technical support, particularly for the production and processing of groundnuts, fruit and vegetables. Louvain Coopération and F3M have also set up CoopAgri, its commercial arm, which is responsible for finding markets, collecting produce, organising sales and meeting input requirements. This system enables producers to share profits and improve their living conditions.

Agricultural entrepreneurship as a solution to youth unemployment

In rural Burundi, youth unemployment and the low profitability of agricultural produce are two major challenges. They limit economic opportunities and exacerbate precarious living conditions and the exodus of young people. Against this backdrop, agricultural entrepreneurship is emerging as a practical and sustainable solution that promotes local produce, boosts incomes and creates jobs. In 2025, 1,282 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises received support through various projects, where our assistance combines access to finance, training and mentoring to strengthen entrepreneurs' skills and develop viable, income-generating activities. Thanks to these projects, lives are being transformed, particularly for women: they acquire technical skills, become independent, are able to provide for their families and are increasingly represented in decision-making bodies.



BURUNDI

→ 564

PEOPLE, INCLUDING 457 WOMEN, ARE TAKING PART IN A LITERACY PROGRAMME.

TOGO



↗ 459

AGROECOLOGICAL PRODUCERS COMMITTED TO A PARTICIPATORY CERTIFICATION PROCESS.

Raising the profile of certified agroecological products

In Togo's Savanes region, an increasing number of farmers are turning to agroecology. They benefit from a local certification scheme set up with our partner RAFIA, which guarantees the quality and sustainability of their produce. The next challenge lies in raising awareness of these products among consumers. In 2025, the launch of the 'EcoAgriMarket' digital platform contributed to this objective. The platform allows available products to be displayed online and ordered. Since early 2025, the platform has recorded over 13,000 visits. RAFIA also operates a retail outlet dedicated to certified agroecological products at its premises and, in December 2025, organised the first Savanes agroecological products fair in Dapaong, featuring 115 exhibitors. An event that was a hit with residents and local authorities. This year, RAFIA will continue its efforts to bring agroecological products closer to their buyers. They aim to improve the platform's operations and make it financially self-sustaining. A healthier and more environmentally friendly form of agriculture is on the way.



EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Louvain Coopération promotes inclusive education systems. It rethinks the foundations of education to make it a tool for raising awareness, empowerment and redress, capable of transforming power relations and guaranteeing everyone the right to participate in and contribute to the production and circulation of knowledge, particularly that originating from the Global South, diasporas, grassroots experiences or social struggles.

Tackling poverty: an interdisciplinary approach



In March 2025, Louvain Coopération co-organised the international workshop ‘Confronting poverty: uniting disciplines for global impact’ at UCLouvain, in collaboration with Circle U and Professor Barbara De Cock. Over the course of three days, students, PhD candidates and lecturers from several European universities came together to analyse poverty through an interdisciplinary approach. The event provided an opportunity to explore the links between poverty, inequality, economic growth and North-South relations, and a workshop led by our colleagues Mutesi Van Hoecke and Juliette Delvaux extended these themes to the Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop also aimed to critically analyse the discourse of political, institutional, academic and civil society actors, as well as their influence on public policy. It provided a space for collective reflection in which participants were fully engaged.

Literary events focusing on Afrocriticism

Last spring, on the Louvain-La-Neuve and Saint-Louis campuses, Louvain Coopération organised two literary events centred on the book ‘Afrocritique: An Essay on the Infrapolitics of Black Struggles’, attended by its author, Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka. The book examines responses to contemporary crises and inequalities in the recognition of lives, particularly the way in which some are deemed worthy of protection whilst others are devalued, often on the basis of race. Drawing on voices from the Global South, the author offers a reflection on Black struggles, care practices within communities and avenues for building a decolonial future. The events provided an opportunity to explore these issues in greater depth through discussions between the author, speakers and the audience on dominant narratives, power relations and experiences linked to Black struggles.



The WAKA Project: cooperation and intercultural exchange



In August 2025, Louvain Coopération took part in the WAKA project led by the Urunani network, in partnership with ITECO, in Benin. This first edition brought together participants from Benin, Togo, Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Belgium to focus on strengthening intercultural exchanges and jointly developing practices in education for global citizenship and solidarity. The project offered activities, training sessions, field visits and reflection workshops, interspersed with discussions on the challenges of ECMS, power relations and the decolonisation of practices, drawing on participants’ shared experiences and contexts of action. Meetings with local stakeholders and civil society organisations then anchored these reflections in concrete realities. These exchanges helped to highlight local initiatives and strengthen ties between members of the Urunani network, Louvain Coopération and ITECO.

The sound of children: young people from here and elsewhere

In 2025, more than 300 children came together to improve life in their communities as part of the ‘Le son d’enfants’ project, focusing on themes they had chosen themselves. For example, in Haiti, to support out-of-school young people, children set up a monitoring committee comprising local authorities, teachers, parents and pupils to raise funds to improve access to education. To tackle poverty, a class in Togo organised a fundraising drive for an orphanage and for children in conflict with the law, and subsequently lobbied public institutions. Finally, regarding the use of social media, a class in Senegal raised awareness about cyberbullying within their school by staging a play. These initiatives demonstrate children’s ability to take collective action on concrete social issues.





We must urgently put a stop to the destruction of mangroves. In Madagascar and Benin, communities are working alongside us to save this natural treasure. Together, they have already replanted 105 hectares of mangroves and are seeking alternatives to limit logging and overfishing.

With the return of the mangroves, life is reborn: the fish are coming back, honey is plentiful, and hope is growing.

The future begins today.

Let's work together to protect the mangroves.

Your donation makes a real difference:

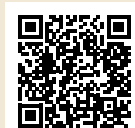
 **5€ =**
1 mangrove sapling cared for and protected for 3 years

 **23€ =**
equipment for maintaining and expanding mangrove areas

 **54€ =**
1 person trained and equipped to set up a sustainable business, such as beekeeping

Please make a donation.

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THANK YOU FROM
THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEART!