

Annual Report 2025

 **LOUVAIN**
COOPERATION

 **UCLouvain**



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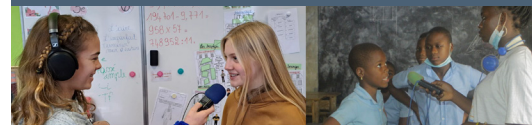
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Let's continue to broaden the scope of possibilities



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 changing 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 developments in the sector and our experience in the field, we have harnessed the collective intelligence of our teams, partners, governing bodies and the academic communities with which 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 2027–2031 programme, which represents a

profound renewal compared with the one due to end 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 on Women's Entrepreneurship, the forthcoming launch of the new journal published by our GCSE department, and the completion of major projects relating to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, gynaecological cancers and early pregnancies.

As my second term of office draws to a close, I would like 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 every confidence in our organisation's strengthened human, technical and financial capacities to advance its missions and enhance its impact both in Belgium and in the Global South. I hope that reading this 2025 report will inspire you to share my enthusiasm and confidence in the future, and convince you that, now more than ever, LC has a role to play and that you are part of this journey.

Thierry de Waha

President of Louvain Coopération

Our vision

We want to work together,
in a conscious and critical way,
to build a sustainable, fair and inclusive world,
based on solidarity.

Our mission

Louvain Coopération works with a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society and the academic community. Together, we co-develop innovative and replicable solutions that respect human dignity, improve people's lives and strengthen the resilience of individuals and communities.

By adopting an integrated and critical approach, we influence practices and policies to bring about structural change and enhance the scope and sustainability of our impact.

Our values



Solidarity

Solidarity lies at the heart of our commitment. We join forces and work with our various partners to build a sustainable and equitable world.



Impact

In everything we do, we seek to achieve tangible, sustainable and equitable results.



Partnership

Multi-stakeholder partnership is at the heart of our work. Change-makers come together, learn from one another and co-create solutions with the aim of scaling them up.



Learning

Our actions are part of a critical and experimental approach. Our staff and partners are encouraged to demonstrate humility and to regularly question their own assumptions in order to remain engaged in a process of continuous learning.

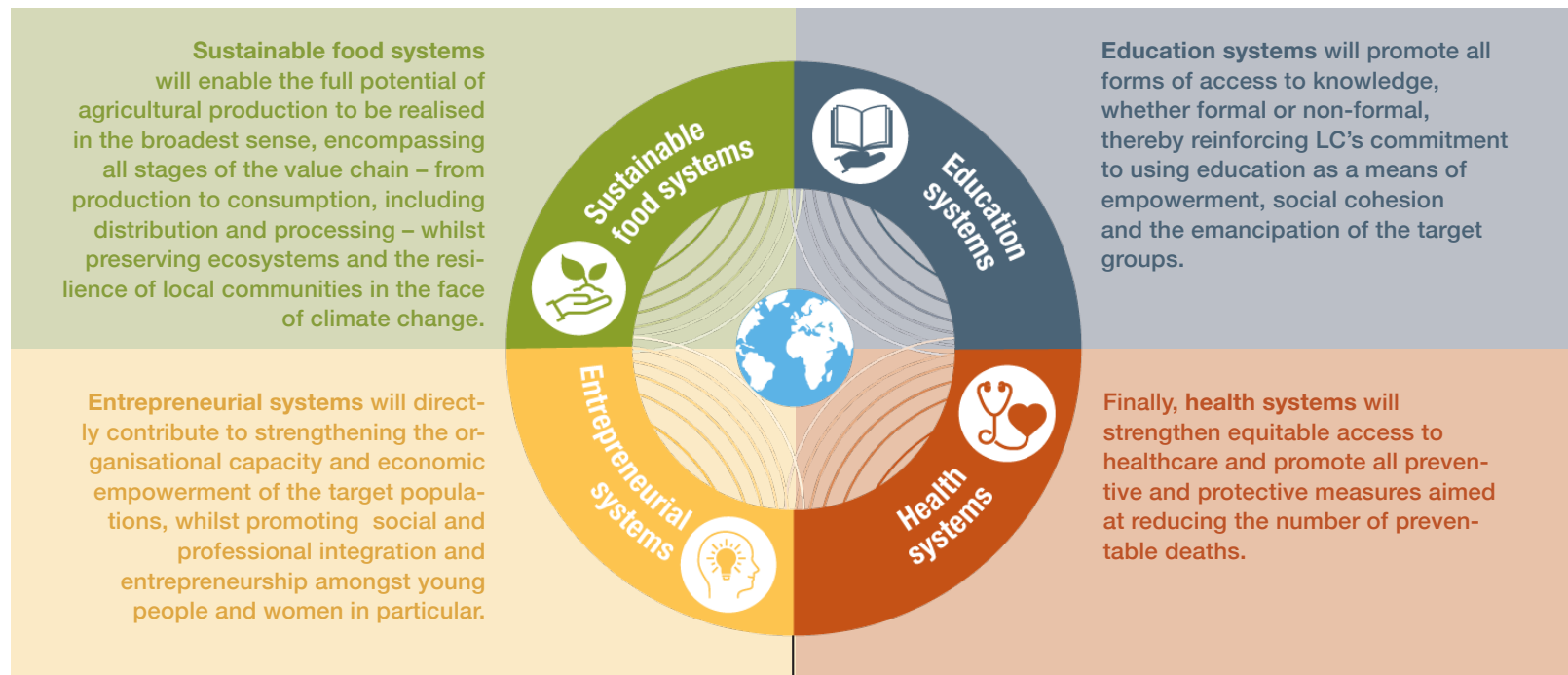


Innovation

Innovation is a daily ally and lies at the heart of our learning process. We broaden our horizons and look at problems and solutions from an innovative perspective.

Integrated interventions within four systems

Guided by this systemic approach, which enables a better understanding of the complexity of the issues at stake and the interdependence of the factors influencing a population's well-being, Louvain Coopération aims to develop more integrated initiatives, embedded within four major systems, the interactions between which will enable knowledge to be combined rather than compartmentalised.



Cross-cutting themes

Louvain Coopération incorporates various cross-cutting themes, which influence and are taken into account across all its activities.

These are Gender, Environment, Human Rights and Decent Work.



A team comprising

82

talents (head office and field sites)



38

trainees and volunteers



69

partners in the Global South

32

programmes
implemented in
the South



3

in the North

4 674

students and
pupils, in Belgium
and abroad, engaged
through awareness-raising
activities



53

professors
and researchers
involved in
our activities
North and South



316 130€

donations received from
our supporters



25

grants secured from
foundations



Thanks to all of this,

120 317*

people directly impacted by our projects in the Global South

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



= results improved compared to 2024



In Benin, early pregnancies still affect a particularly high number of teenage girls. According to UNICEF, nearly one in five girls (18.7% of girls aged 18 to 22) have their first child before the age of 18. This phenomenon has a direct impact on girls' education, as they generally drop out of school if they become pregnant. In 2025, we completed a pilot project aimed at educating teenage girls and boys about their sexual and reproductive health.

Preventing teenage pregnancies and STIs

Several student ambassadors from different secondary schools have undergone training on sexual and reproductive health. Since then, they have been regularly running information sessions within their schools, thereby breaking the taboo surrounding sex. Sorotori Gnantcha, headteacher in the municipality of Toucountouna, explains: *"When I arrived at this secondary school, we had some very worrying statistics regarding pregnancies. In 2021–2022, 13 pupils became pregnant. These pregnancies force the girls to drop out of school. Through this project,*

we have really worked to reduce that number. Our aim this year is to have zero cases of pregnancy. I believe it is very important to share information on sexual and reproductive health at school. Today, there are several girls who are continuing their education at our school. We have even noticed that there are more girls than boys in the first cycle, which is very encouraging. 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 pass than boys."

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN BENIN:



13^{HA}

OF MANGROVES
RESTORED WITH A VIEW TO
CONSERVING
NATURAL RESOURCES.



2 260

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

97

FARMERS
WHO RECEIVE REGULAR
SUPPORT WITH THEIR
AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION.

300

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR
PARENTS TAKING PART IN A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
ON RAPE, CYBERCRIME AND THE
USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.



In Togo's Savanes region, more and more farmers are turning to agroecology. They benefit from a local certification scheme set up in collaboration with our partners and the farmers themselves, which guarantees the quality of their produce. The next challenge lies in raising the profile of their products amongst consumers. In 2025, the launch of the 'EcoAgriMarket' digital platform and the organisation of the region's first agroecology fair contributed to this objective.

Raising the profile of certified agroecological products

"EcoAgriMarket is a trading platform. The platform manager compiles a list of products available from our producers and posts it online. Consumers can then place orders," explains Eyazimam Pagna, technical manager at our partner organisation, RAFIA. *"For the time being, it is mainly used to connect producers with buyers. People visit the platform and then get in touch directly to make a purchase. Since early 2025, we have recorded nearly 13,000 visits."* RAFIA also operates a retail outlet on its premises dedicated to certified agroecological products and, in December 2025,

organised the first agroecological products fair in the Savanes region, held in Dapaong. *"We had 115 exhibitors and plenty of customers, as they were looking for good-quality products for the festive season. The local authorities have also expressed an interest in making this a regular event."*

This year, RAFIA will continue its efforts to bring agroecological products closer to their buyers. It aims to improve the platform's operations and make it financially self-sufficient.

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN TOGO:



459

FARMERS INVOLVED IN
A PROCESS OF PARTICIPATORY
CERTIFICATION OF THEIR
AGROECOLOGICAL PRODUCTS.

13 000

VISITS TO THE PLATFORM
ECOAGRIMARKET,
AN ONLINE MARKETPLACE
FOR AGROECOLOGICAL
PRODUCTS.

4 902

PEOPLE WHO ARE
MEMBERS OF A MUTUAL
HEALTH INSURANCE
SCHEME, 60 % OF WHOM
ARE WOMEN.

27

GROUPS HAVE JOINED
COLLECTIVELY
A MUTUAL HEALTH INSU-
RANCE SCHEME.



In Burundi, particularly in rural areas, youth unemployment and the low profitability of agricultural produce are two major challenges. This situation limits economic opportunities and exacerbates precarious living conditions and the exodus of young people. Against this backdrop, entrepreneurship is emerging as a practical and sustainable solution: it promotes local produce, helps to increase incomes, organises supply chains and creates jobs. It is within this framework that Louvain Coopération and its local partners support entrepreneurs.

Supporting rural micro-enterprises and agricultural processing

In 2025, 1,282 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises received support in Burundi. Our support, which is both financial and technical, combines access to finance, equipment, targeted training and on-the-ground support. Beyond the figures, this integrated approach aims to equip entrepreneurs with the skills and resources needed to develop viable, sustainable and income-generating businesses. It thus helps to strengthen their economic independence and boost local economies.

Behind these results lie transformed life stories.

Jeannette, chair of a sewing cooperative in Mabanda, testifies: *"Thanks to our co-operative, the women have become much more self-reliant. They have learnt not only the trade of dressmaking, but also management, business planning and finance. These skills now enable them to provide for themselves, raise their children and improve their well-being. They have become financially independent."*

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN BURUNDI:

564

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



1 480

PEOPLE EDUCATED ABOUT CANCER PREVENTION, INCLUDING 413 WOMEN WHO UNDERWENT SCREENING.

1 282

MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES SUPPORTED IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT.



16

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS LED BY LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS HAVE RESULTED, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, IN THE PRODUCTION OF 313,904 FOREST AND AGROFORESTRY SEEDLINGS AND THE REFORESTATION OF 129.2 HECTARES.



In September 2025, we launched the *Étincelle créative* project with the aim of supporting Congolese young people in developing socio-cultural projects. This initiative encourages the emergence of talent and innovative projects with a significant social impact through targeted support, including mentoring, training and financial assistance. 'Étincelle créative' contributes to young people's personal development and to strengthening social cohesion within their communities.

Supporting youth creativity at the heart of socio-cultural initiatives

Étincelle créative enables young people to develop their skills in careers within the cultural sector and the creative economy. The project also helps them to network with key players in the sector, thereby fostering exchanges, collaborations and visibility. An initial cohort of 37 young people has already been selected, and the teams have put in place the necessary measures to provide them with the best possible support. Among the projects supported, that of the young artist Gloire Muntunta is a fine example of this dynamic. His project, *Classico-Jazz Moderne Kimboka*, fuses 20th-century jazz with traditional Congolese music. It offers a training programme for young people, focusing

on the fundamentals of jazz, classical and traditional music, and supports 10 young local musicians in innovative musical creation. Gloire's project promotes cultural exchanges between Congolese and international artists, trains and supports young musicians from peri-urban areas, and contributes to making the performing arts more accessible.

'Étincelle créative' forms part of a wider initiative to support local organisations: by encouraging innovation and engaging young people, the project helps to build positive and sustainable momentum in support of social and cultural development in the DRC.

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN THE DRC:



1 314

CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE LIVING ON THE
STREETS WHO ARE EN-
ROLLED IN A PROGRAMME
OF PSYCHOSOCIAL
REINTEGRATION.

606

YOUNG STUDENTS,
INCLUDING 186 GIRLS,
TRAINED AT AGRICULTURAL
TECHNICAL COLLEGES.

1 159

YOUNG PEOPLE AND WO-
MEN ENTREPRENEURS
WHO ARE TRAINED AND
SUPPORTED IN THEIR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.



1 743

FARMERS
TRAINED
IN SUSTAINABLE
FARMING TECHNIQUES.



In Madagascar, organising small-scale producers into cooperatives is part of our strategy to improve families' incomes. By pooling their harvests, they are better placed to negotiate selling prices, develop processing on a larger scale, or gain access to training. We therefore work with both fishing and agricultural co-operatives. The latter are grouped together within a federation, the F3M, which comprises 19 organisations with a total of 400 members.

Coming together in co-operatives to improve everyday life

Christian Raharivelo is the technical coordinator at F3M. He explains: *"We are responsible for organising activities and training courses for agricultural organisations and their members, and for providing them with support, advice and technical assistance. This mainly involves the production of groundnuts, fruit and vegetables, and their processing."* At the same time, F3M has set up CoopAgri, which is the federation's commercial arm. *"Its role is to identify and develop markets for the pro-*

ducts. It then collects agricultural produce from members and sells it. It also manages members' needs for inputs, for example." Louvain Coopération works alongside F3M and CoopAgri, supporting their organisational development and activity planning, as well as providing the equipment needed for production and processing. *"Thanks to this system, producers share the profits and improve their standard of living,"* concludes Christian.

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN MADAGASCAR:



425

FISHERMEN
INCLUDING 207 WOMEN,
RECEIVED SUPPORT, ADVICE
AND TRAINING ON
INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
FISHING
AS WELL AS
FISHING EQUIPMENT.



200

WOMEN JOINED A
SOLIDARITY SAVINGS GROUP,
ARE TAKING PART IN TRAINING
COURSES ON AGRICULTURAL
TECHNIQUES AND ARE RECEI-
VING SUPPORT IN THE FORM
OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND
EQUIPMENT.



92,35^{HA}

MANGROVES HAVE BEEN
PRESERVED
OR RESTORED.

82

PEOPLE WORKING
IN BEEKEEPING
IN THE AREA FOLLOWING
PRACTICAL TRAINING
COURSES.



In Bolivia, social and regional inequalities continue to severely restrict access to healthcare, particularly for young people and women. In several regions, services providing information and prevention support in the areas of sexual, reproductive and mental health remain inadequate. These challenges are exacerbated by income disparities and the geographical isolation of certain areas. In response to these challenges, we are working with our partner CIES to carry out community awareness-raising initiatives aimed at improving access to information and strengthening preventive health practices.

Raising awareness among youth about mental, sexual and reproductive health

In La Paz, the 'Tú decides' campaign educates young people about their health and rights through peer education. The programme has four main areas of focus: sexuality education, political advocacy, the prevention of gender-based violence, and support for young people.

By 2025, 276 trained young people had engaged with their peers in schools, universities, at events and online, with the aim of empowering them to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights, make informed decisions and promote safe spaces. In total, more than 9,500 young

people were reached through this campaign. Hans Verastegui Loza, Head of Advocacy and Gender at CIES, emphasises: *"This programme offers the opportunity to improve the quality of life of the population, particularly adolescents and young adults, by recognising their rights and the importance of exercising and upholding them. It does more than simply increase knowledge; it also transforms individuals by raising their awareness of their environment and encouraging them to become agents of change in their own lives and communities."*

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN BOLIVIA:



550

WOMEN TOOK PART IN
A TRAINING COURSE
ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

311

FARMERS
(211 WOMEN
AND 100 MEN)
TRAINED IN SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE.

31

SCHOOLS TOOK PART
IN SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL
PROJECTS ON HEALTH
AND NON-VIOLENCE.



1 135

HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS
TRAINED
IN PREVENTION.



In Peru, empowering women is a key priority. The country is characterised by significant social inequalities, and women are often excluded from economic activities and decision-making forums. Louvain Coopération and its partners therefore support Peruvian women in developing their economic, social and decision-making capacities, with a view to reducing gender inequalities. These initiatives aim to strengthen their role in managing productive activities and in community life.

Empowering women through training

In the regions of Puno and Arequipa, our partners Ceder and El Taller support women in developing their businesses and building their independence. In 2025, 215 women received support on this journey. Working with Ceder, 74 of these women took part in nine workshops covering topics such as business management, decision-making and equality in family and professional life. These sessions brought together both women and men, with the aim of changing attitudes within households and communities. For its part, El Taller supported 141 women

through training on self-confidence, emotional intelligence, communication and marketing. This work has notably led to the emergence of around twenty female leaders, who are now active within their organisations and able to support and inspire other women. Gradually, these initiatives are bearing fruit. Women are becoming more visible in public spaces, local government and leadership roles. On a larger scale, this is contributing to a gradual improvement in gender equality.

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN PERU:



170

BUSINESSES (150 WOMEN
AND 20 MEN) HAVE IN-
CREASED THEIR OUTPUT.



580

FARMERS
(416 WOMEN AND
164 MEN) TRAINED
IN AGRICULTURE.

252^{HA}

HECTARES SET ASIDE
FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMING
PRACTICES.

243

PRODUCERS
(188 WOMEN AND
55 MEN) COMMITTED
TO PRACTICES THAT RESPECT
THE ENVIRONMENT.



In Haiti, and particularly in the capital, Port-au-Prince, hundreds of thousands of children are living in extremely precarious conditions. In February 2026, the UN sounded the alarm over the trafficking of children by armed gangs currently operating in the country. According to recent estimates, gang violence has forced more than 1,400,000 people to flee their homes. More than half of them are children. On the ground, our partner Timkatec supports young people left to fend for themselves and helps them build a future through training programmes.

Opening the doors to a future for youth

Timkatec takes in children aged 10 and over, and sometimes a little younger. Initially, they are provided with food, care and accommodation, and attend the association's school, where they learn to read and write and follow a condensed programme to catch up on their studies. After four or five years, the young people are directed towards the centre's vocational school, where they can choose a trade from among the various courses on offer. At the end of their apprenticeship, Timkatec also supports them in finding work placements. The situation is very challenging, but some young people manage to succeed, thanks

to the skills they have acquired. This is the case for Claudia St-Julien. A former student of dress-making and beauty therapy at Timkatec, she was able to set up her own business and a beauty salon. She now also teaches beauty therapy at the organisation: *"Timkatec not only instilled in me a love of learning, but also gave me a new outlook on life. Today, as a professional, I feel deeply indebted to this institution. That is why I support other young people in learning a trade that will enable them to secure their future."*

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN HAITI:

↗
453
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
GAINED ACCESS
TO HEALTHCARE.

↘
130
CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE
SUPPORTED BY
SOCIAL WORKERS.

280
WOMEN AND GIRLS
RECEIVED VOCATIONAL
TRAINING.

660
YOUTH RECEIVED
TRAINING ON SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.



The Cambodian population is particularly vulnerable to mental health problems. In 2019, 28 per cent of Cambodians were suffering from post-traumatic stress. The Khmer Rouge regime left deep scars, and recently there has been a surge in cases, largely due to the socio-economic situation. This is against a backdrop where patient care remains very limited, particularly in rural areas. Together with our partners, we work every day to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of mental health services.

Developing multidisciplinary collaboration around mental health

Our approach to mental health is based on a collaborative care model, adapted to the local culture, which integrates mental health into primary health-care services, whilst strengthening referral systems and multidisciplinary collaboration. Pheareak Horn has benefited from this. This young man, the son of farmers living in Tbong Khmum province, developed mental health problems shortly before turning 30. He could no longer sleep, talked to himself and exhibited unpredictable and violent behaviour... Despite seeking help from various traditional healers, his condition continued to worsen. Feeling helpless and worried for their own safety and that of the neighbourhood, his parents confined him to a locked room. This sort of situation is not uncommon in Cambodia. In the ab-

sence of appropriate care, patients with psychiatric disorders often suffer inhumane treatment.

For Pheareak, things took a turn for the better. Having been informed of the situation, his village chief referred the matter to representatives of TPO, our local partner. A social worker met with Pheareak and his family, and shortly afterwards he was given access to treatment. At the same time, the whole family received psychosocial support. Pheareak's condition soon improved and he began to interact with his family again, move about freely and take part in farm work. In 2025, 480 new patients, like Pheareak, gained access to mental health care thanks to the efforts of our partners.

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT IN CAMBODIA:



480

NEW PATIENTS
TREATED FOR MENTAL
HEALTH CONDITIONS.



263

DIABETIC PATIENTS
RECEIVED CARE
IN A HOLISTIC MANNER.

3 243

FARMERS INCLUDING 1,993
WOMEN, RECEIVED TRAINING
AND ADVICE ON AGROECOLOGY
PROVIDED BY THEIR PEERS.

4

CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES
SPECIALISING IN RICE PRO-
CESSING, THE MARKETING OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND
THE PRODUCTION OF BIOFERTI-
LISERS WERE SET UP.

Together for South Kivu

The start of 2025 was marked by the M23 movement's invasion of eastern DRC. The civilian population, already made extremely vulnerable by years of war, was particularly hard hit by this conflict. Very quickly, we had to deal with population displacement, an influx of wounded people, and a desperate shortage of equipment and medicines... In early February, we therefore launched an emergency appeal for donations, which enabled us to supply our health centres with medical and logistical equipment. In March, we launched a second appeal for donations for the same purpose. Many of you responded: 18,000 euros were raised. We would like to thank you most warmly.

New supporters, online

In 2024, we decided to further professionalise our digital marketing strategy in order to raise our profile, reinforce our positioning as a university-based NGO, and develop our fundraising efforts more effectively in support of our solidarity initiatives. This strategy has borne fruit, as in 2025, 573 people who were not yet familiar with Louvain Coopération decided to get involved with us. We are continuing our efforts in this direction this year.



The 20th edition – that's something to celebrate!

In March 2025, we celebrated the publication of the 20th issue of Devlop'. This biannual journal, written by our team, serves as a platform for our programmes, our aspirations and our challenges... in both the North and the South. Twice a year, we publish this 12-page illustrated journal. Focusing on one of our key themes or areas of work, it keeps you up to date with our latest news, features testimonials from those involved in our projects, and explains our approach and working methods. This 20th issue provided an opportunity to take stock of several projects that were launched around the same time as Devlop'. At the same time, we have launched Devlop'RA, a lighter version of Devlop', which allows us to distribute a condensed version of our Annual Report.

Opportunities to get together

In 2025, we took part in the Alumni Festival, organised as part of the University of Louvain's 600th anniversary celebrations. It was an opportunity to reflect on the strong bond that unites us with the university through various profiles of alumni who are involved, in one way or another, in the work of Louvain Coopération. In October, the premiere of the play «Death on the Nile», based on Agatha Christie's novel, played to a full house in Kraainem, with proceeds going towards our projects.





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 inaugural edition brought together participants from Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Belgium around a common objective: to strengthen intercultural exchanges and the joint development of practices in global citizenship and solidarity education (GCSE). Organised across several cities in Benin, the project featured training sessions, field visits and reflection workshops, interspersed with discussions on the challenges facing GCSE, power relations and the decolonisation of practices. Meetings with local stakeholders and civil society organisations also helped to ground these reflections in concrete realities. The week also featured collaborative working ses-

sions, such as text analysis, facilitation workshops and discussions on colonial debt and systems of governance. These exchanges helped to highlight local initiatives and strengthen ties between members of the Urunani network.

The Sound of Children: young people from here and elsewhere

In 2025, more than 300 children took action to improve life in their communities by carrying out the 'The Sound of Children' project, focusing on themes they had chosen themselves. Here are a few examples. Focusing on children's rights, in Haiti, children mobilised local stakeholders to support out-of-school young people. Following this mobilisation, a monitoring committee comprising local autho-

rities, teachers, parents and pupils was set up to raise funds to improve access to education. Focusing on the fight against poverty, a class in Togo organised a collection of donations for the SPES (Soutien Pour l'Enfance en Souffrance) orphanage and for children in conflict with the law, and subsequently lobbied public institutions.

In Belgium, two classes organised a major collection of clothing, hygiene products and non-perishable goods for the Restos du Cœur in Gembloux, the community food bank in Court-St-Etienne and the non-profit organisation Grands Froids in St-Gilles. Focusing on the use of social media, an inclusive class in Senegal – which included a visually impaired pupil – raised awareness of cyberbullying across the rest of the school by staging a play. Its Belgian partner class produced short stop-motion films with the same aim.





Confronting poverty: an interdisciplinary approach

In April 2025, Louvain Coopération co-organised, alongside CircleU – an association of European universities – and Professor Barbara De Cock, the international workshop ‘Confronting poverty: uniting disciplines for global impact’ at the University of Louvain. Over three days, students, PhD candidates and lecturers from several European universities came together with a shared aim: to analyse poverty through an interdisciplinary approach. The event provided an interactive forum for

discussing the links between poverty, inequality, economic growth and North-South relations, particularly from the perspectives of discourse analysis, history and political science. Our colleagues Mutesi Van Hoecke and Fiona Nziza led the workshop: ‘Poverty and Growth: The Blind Spots of the SDGs’, which focused on the links between poverty, growth and the Sustainable Development Goals. One of the main objectives of this event was to critically explore the discourses of political, institutional, academic and civil society actors on these themes, as well as to analyse their influence on the formulation of public policy. This workshop thus provided a space for reflection and exploration as part of a collective research endeavour.

Literary events centred on Afrocritique

On 20 March in Louvain-la-Neuve and 23 May in Saint-Louis, Louvain Coopération organised two literary events centred on the book *Afrocritique: An Essay on the Infrapolitics of Black Struggles*, attended by its author, Prof. Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka.

The book examines the responses to contemporary crises and the inequalities in the recognition of lives. In particular, it examines how some lives are deemed worthy of protection whilst others

are marginalised or 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 these communities and pathways towards building a decolonial future.

The events provided an opportunity to explore these issues in greater depth through discussions between the author, panellists and the audience, which consisted mainly of students. The discussions centred on dominant narratives, power relations and experiences linked to Black struggles. *“As always, it was a real pleasure to engage in dialogue with friends and colleagues driven by a shared passion, who share this deep conviction that Africa, through its history and struggles, offers us invaluable insights for imagining alternative solutions in a world plagued by suffering,”* concluded the author.



Our academic distinctiveness is reflected in a critical and reflective approach, based on continuous learning and the involvement of academic communities in the Global South and the Global North. Our Research and Development team takes particular care to fulfil these objectives. Here are some of its achievements in 2025.

Joint workshops on the evaluation of programmes relating to sustainable food systems

En 2025, la R&D a organisé et pris part à l'évaln 2025, the R&D department organised and took part in the mid-term evaluation of programmes relating to sustainable food systems as part of the Uni4Coop consortium. The results of initiatives carried out in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Benin, the DRC, Madagascar, Senegal and Togo were analysed. This process formed part of the accountability obligations towards the DGD (Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid), which subsidises these programmes at federal level.

These truly participatory workshops were also designed as Communities of Learning and Practice (CAPs), bringing together a core group of around ten contributors who share a common interest in issues relating to the agroecological transition and sustainable food systems. Through regular exchanges, the CAPs have fostered the creation and sharing of knowledge, informing the evaluative discussions

held during the face-to-face workshops. Particular attention was paid to the quality of facilitation and to creating a climate of trust that enabled in-depth exchanges and the emergence of new learning.

In line with the Inclusive Knowledge Management (GIdS) approach, a specific effort was made to enhance the inclusivity of the discussions, notably by occasionally involving external stakeholders or incorporating feedback from partners and beneficiaries via interviews prepared in advance.

One of the main objectives of this evaluation was to analyse the added value of the TAPE (Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation) tool, developed by the FAO to assess the performance of the transition to agroecology. The evaluation report concludes that this tool is an important lever for supporting this process, provided that its use is clarified, that monitoring procedures are structured, and that partners fully embrace its analytical function.

Furthermore, the initial developments observed in the projects were discussed collectively with all stakeholders (public authorities, representa-



tives of vulnerable groups, civil society organisations and external evaluators) and quickly led to very concrete recommendations. The promising strategies identified related in particular to increasing incomes, enhancing agricultural biodiversity, improving productivity, boosting young people's employability, and improving the nutritional quality and diversity of food prepared by rural women.

Louvain Coopération pays particular attention to the learning and knowledge that already exist and that are generated during the initiatives it carries out, ensuring that these are taken into account in its operations and disseminated. This dissemination takes the form of numerous documents that are accessible to all via our website. Here are three examples of our publications released in 2025.

CASE STUDY

Introduction of the HCD tool (Human-Centred Design) in the care of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) 'Towards a person-centred approach'

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) pose a major challenge for health systems, particularly in resource-limited countries. In the DRC, our teams have integrated the Human-Centred Design (HCD) approach into the management of NCDs. This approach aims to tailor care to patients' needs by reassessing existing interventions and co-developing local, personalised solutions. The ultimate aim is to promote adherence to treatment and improve care outcomes. This tool was tested in Bukavu (South Kivu) by Louvain Coopération and in Goma (North Kivu) and Kinshasa by ULB Coopération. This case study focuses on the co-development and validation phase of the tool, as well as the experience of its implementation in Bukavu.

*Study conducted by: Blaise Ombeni,
Samuel Lwamushi Makali and Zoulikha Faraj*

CASE STUDY

The uptake of biopesticides in Burundi

In late 2025, our teams conducted a case study in Burundi to analyse the introduction of biopesticides as part of the PROVAPA-TERIMBERE project, through the lens of Inclusive Knowledge Management. It shows that farmers' practices regarding biopesticides already existed, but that the project enabled their improvement, scientific validation, more structured dissemination and, above all, their adoption. Field teams play a central role in mediating between farmers' knowledge and scientific knowledge. However, the study highlights that knowledge management remains asymmetrical, with farmers' knowledge often receiving insufficient recognition, or only through validation by scientific institutions. It also highlights inequalities in access to resources and opportunities for participation, limiting the inclusion of the most marginalised groups. Finally, whilst the dissemination of these practices is effective at a local level, their sustainability still depends heavily on the original institutions behind the project.

*Study conducted by Stéphanie Merle,
Florent Lowet, Jean Claude Nkeshimana and Doriane Desclée*



Building on the success of 'L'Espace sûr' in South Kivu – Mapping the impact of an innovation to strengthen its reach and inspire replication

In 2025, we carried out a study on 'L'Espace sûr', an initiative created as part of the 'Ensemble Pour Elles' project (a consortium comprising GEL South Kivu and Louvain Coopération, supported by Expertise France). This centre, dedicated to women entrepreneurs in Bukavu, offers them psychological support, entrepreneurial training, coaching, equipment provision, health insurance, digital connectivity and networking opportunities. It represents a major innovation aimed at strengthening the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs and reducing gender inequalities in a context characterised by insecurity and socio-economic fragility. A survey of the women involved in this project reveals that 94 % of them have seen an improvement in their well-being and self-esteem, thanks to the counselling and psychological support services; 33 % have increased their turnover and 8 % have diversified their activities, despite an unstable security situation.

Finally, all respondents stated that the integration of these services had enabled them to maintain their businesses and adopt strategies to cope with crises. In light of these positive results, we are considering replicating this type of initiative in other women's entrepreneurship programmes.

DISCOVER OUR
PUBLICATIONS:



2025 marked the fourth year of our Uni4Coop programme, run in partnership with the three other French-speaking Belgian university-based NGOs. This structural and formative collaboration focuses on similar student groups from different campuses. It facilitates the sharing and cross-fertilisation of hegemonic and non-hegemonic knowledge, between the North and the South, and amongst partners from the Global South living in similar ecosystems.

Critical reflection, dialogue and student engagement

In 2025, Uni4Coop continued to carry out numerous initiatives in Belgium and around the world. In the ever-changing context we are currently experiencing, the Global Citizenship and Solidarity Education (GCSE) activities organised within the consortium played a vital role as spaces for critical reflection, dialogue and student engagement.

Throughout the year, the Uni4Coop GCSE team continued and consolidated its flagship initiatives on campus. The Half-Day Exchange Sessions on Food Sovereignty (DJESA) were, once again, a resounding success among students in the bioengineering faculties, combining cultural approaches, systemic analyses and participatory discussions.

At the same time, the integration of the GCSE into degree programmes – particularly for trainee teachers – continued. These initiatives helped to firmly embed the GCSE within traditional academic pathways and to strengthen students' teaching and critical thinking skills.



Preservation of threatened ecosystems

Mangroves play a major role in the balance of coastal areas: they protect coastlines, support fishing and other local activities, store carbon and provide ecosystem services that are essential to coastal communities. Uni4Coop is implementing initiatives in four countries (Benin, Madagascar, Senegal and Guinea) to restore and preserve these coastal forests. In these four areas, community-based management schemes are being consolidated and implemented, with increased community involvement in the monitoring, awareness-raising and management of mangroves. The programme has also demonstrated that it is possible to support economic sectors that are entirely compatible with conservation – such as beekeeping, solar salt production and rush-based crafts – in order to improve the incomes of people living in mangrove areas and encourage their preservation. It is also worth noting that, as in all countries, women play an undeniable role in several value chains linked to ecosystem services. The case of Benin is particularly striking, with female participation far exceeding the project's initial targets (a 45 % increase).

This mangrove programme has also produced tools such as a mobile app dedicated to monitoring at-risk areas, participatory assessments, resilience analyses assessing the state of natural resources, and scientific collaborations that may prove useful in other areas with similar ecosystems.

A research observatory for Congolese women entrepreneurs

In September 2025, the 'Pour Elles' Research Observatory on Sustainable Women's Entrepreneurship was established in Kinshasa. This research centre, Congo's first think tank on this topic, is a genuine innovation that enables the monitoring of developments in women's entrepreneurship and the development of specific gender-sensitive support systems. Allegra Kabamba, a postdoctoral researcher and the Observatory's scientific coordinator, explains: *"In the DRC, women entrepreneurs face difficulties in accessing economic resources through microcredit and suffer from persistent institutional marginalisation. Legally, they remain heavily dependent on their husbands."* Against this backdrop, the Observatory's mission is to monitor, document, analyse, evaluate and raise awareness of stereotypes, gender-based violence and social norms, as well as all the factors that limit women's access to inclusive and sustainable entrepreneurship in the DRC.

A representative from the University of Louvain in the DRC at our offices

In February 2025, Emmanuel Mopendo took up his post as the University of Louvain's representative in the DRC. This brand-new role aims to strengthen collaboration between the University of Louvain and its Congolese partners. *"A significant part of my role involves identifying new opportunities for scientific collaboration with donors operating in the DRC and maintaining close ties with our alumni network."* Louvain Coopération fully supports its university in this endeavour. Emmanuel Mopendo is therefore based in our offices and works closely with our Kinshasa team on a daily basis. *"This proximity allows me to engage with the various projects already carried out by Louvain Coopération in Kinshasa or in the provinces. The idea is to build on the results already achieved to set up a research project or propose these topics to professors at partner universities."*

New members and an expanded role for our General Assembly

In 2025, as part of the preparation of our 2027–2031 programme, we had to make difficult choices regarding our future areas of focus in order to cope with the budget cuts announced by the federal government. We therefore developed a precise methodology to ensure these choices were as objective as possible. The members of our General Assembly were involved in this process, and several academics from the University of Louvain were able to inform and guide our decisions. It should be noted that, in a bid to make our governing bodies younger, more female-led and more diverse, we sought to welcome new members. On 18 June 2026, four female students (Anne-Sophie Libbrecht, Sara Javadian, Lilia N'Diaye and Safaa Fawzi Haouali) and two lecturers (Ayman Nyenyezi Bisoka from UMon and Jean-Luc Nsengiyumya from Saint-Louis) will join us. A warm welcome to them all.



2025: staying on course in an uncertain environment

2025 began with the M23 movement's invasion of South Kivu, which affected local communities, our teams and our projects. Our colleagues faced the resulting challenges with composure, resilience and courage, as Louvain Coopération is implementing two major projects in the fields of health and food systems in this area. After a few weeks of suspension, the emergencies were dealt with and the planned activities resumed.

Geopolitical upheavals and questions surrounding international cooperation and its priorities have led us to continue the reflection 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.

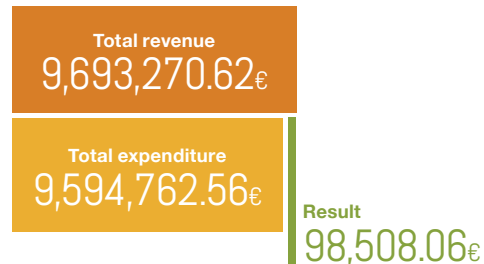
Despite this changing context, we were able to generate a profit of just under €100,000 in 2025, thanks to the diligence of our

teams worldwide, the optimisation of our resources and a particularly frugal approach to 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 is worth noting that we successfully passed the 'overall screening' organised by the DGD, achieving an overall score of 4.93 out of 5 and 4.69 out of 5 for the financial screening; this places us in the top 10 of accredited Belgian NGOs. These scores reflect our organisation's professionalism and financial soundness.

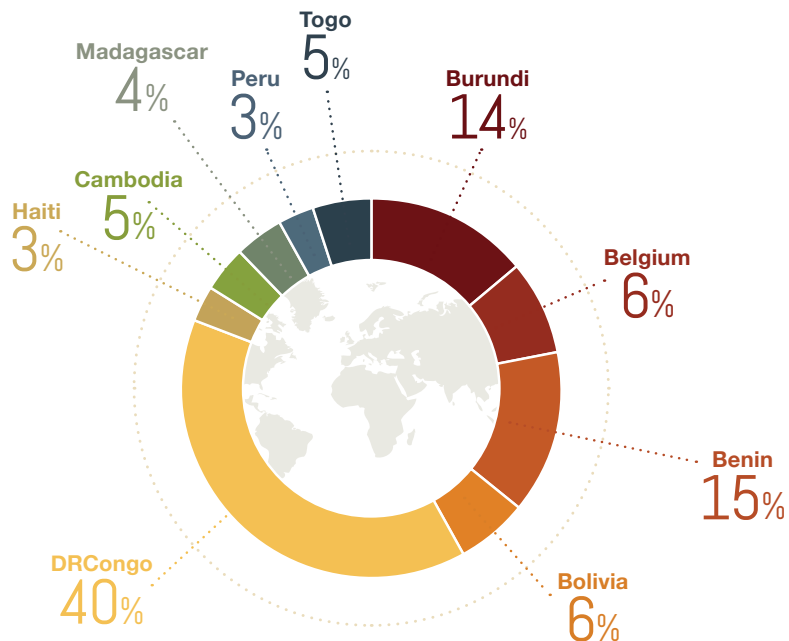
Profit and loss accounts



2025 Review

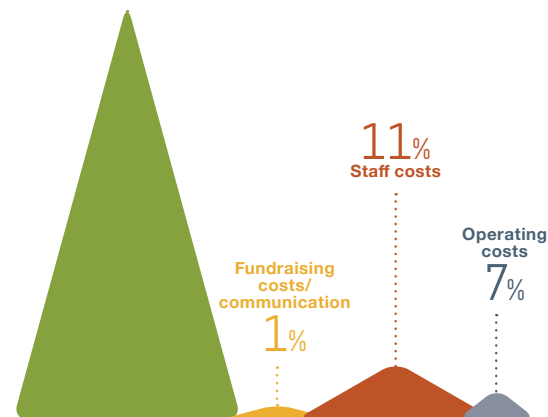
		Adjustment
Fixed assets	1,582,661.77€	
Receivables	1,611,558.66€	
Available	1,903,31445€	
TOTAL ASSETS		5,130,46149€
		Adjustment
Provisions	222,801,00€	13,614,75€
Social Fund	1,948,995.95€	
Debts	2,945,049.79€	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		5,130,46149€

Geographical distribution of projects

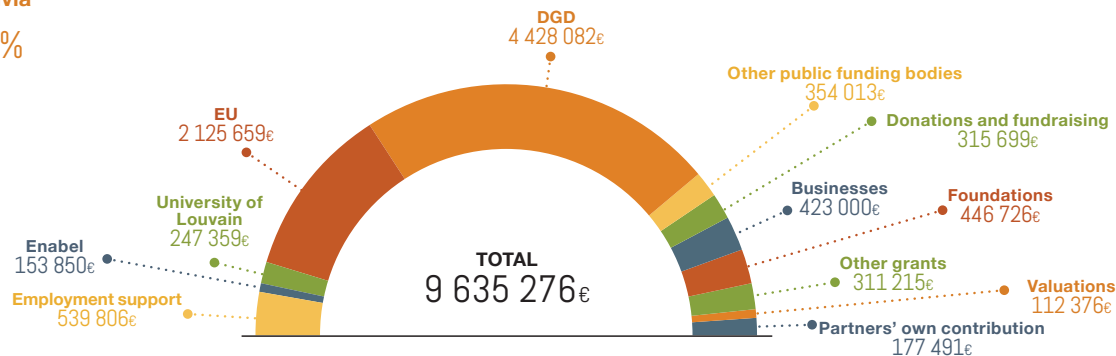


Transfers to projects
81%

Breakdown of expenditure



Funding sources



2026 looks set to be a pivotal one for Louvain Coopération. Here is a summary of the key challenges and opportunities we are currently facing.

A new programme for 2027–2031

Drawing up the DGD programme for 2027–2031 is one of this year's biggest challenges. It sets out all the projects we hope to see supported by the Belgian government over the next five years, along with our objectives, our intervention strategies and the expected outcomes. In light of the budget cuts decided by the Arizona government (a 25 % reduction for the development cooperation sector), we have chosen to narrow down our areas of focus, concentrating on specific ones in order to maximise our impact. Our collaboration with other Belgian university-based NGOs continues within the framework of the Uni4Coop consortium, which will also include the Dutch-speaking university-based NGO UCOS and the VUB's NGO. As part of this programme (which still accounts for an average of 55 % of our income), we have forged links with other Belgian NGOs to carry out joint projects: Join For Water, Broederlijk Delen and Entraide & Fraternité.

Lobito Connect: empowering local talent

2026 also marks the launch of a groundbreaking EU project in Katanga, DRC: Lobito Connect. Led in collaboration with our partners, Ovation and CSR Europe, it aims to strengthen regional integration, develop a skilled workforce and increase socio-economic opportunities along the Lobito Corridor, which links the port of Lobito (Angola) to the landlocked mining areas of the DRC and Zambia. Louvain Coopération is part of this innovative project, which combines its expertise with that of private companies to foster sustainable entrepreneurship and the inclusion of low-skilled workers in mining value chains.

A new journal 'made in LC'

In autumn 2026, our GCSE department will launch the first issue of a new journal of reflection. Conceived as a space for dialogue between research, activist engagement and community action, this publication will bring together diverse, critical and context-specific voices. It will highlight narratives, analyses and practices that challenge power relations and open up prospects for social transformation. This publication aims to be a living laboratory where knowledge, experiences and creativity intertwine to give rise to new frameworks for understanding and resistance.

ADA is bolstering our projects in Burundi

Following the end of Belgian development cooperation in Rwanda, the NGO ADA (Auto-développement Afrique), which operates exclusively in that country, has chosen, on the one hand, to continue its commitment to the region by supporting complementary activities in agricultural development and agricultural entrepreneurship in Burundi. Furthermore, this close collaboration has brought ADA and LC so much closer together that they have decided to merge.

Agroecological innovations in West Africa

As part of the broad EU Desira+ programme, which aims to accelerate the agroecological transition and strengthen smallholders' resilience to climate change, notably by scaling up various innovations; the French Development Agency has decided, following a highly competitive international call for proposals, to award a project worth 1 850 k€ over the next three years for the northern regions of Benin and Togo.

Louvain Coopération adheres to the ethical codes in force within the development cooperation and social economy sectors, ensuring respect for donors and beneficiary communities, and upholding professional standards in fundraising. Our accounts are audited annually by an independent auditor and are available free of charge from the National Bank's Central Balance Sheet Office or at www.donorinfo.be.

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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 Sustainable Management of Forests) using vegetable-based inks.



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