

Activity Report 2024



Ecl^osio

THINKING, ACTING AND BUILDING TOGETHER

Editorial

Summary

The rule of law and democracy are under severe strain throughout the world, and climate change is intensifying. Development cooperation is being called into question and recognition of civil society is weakening. And yet civil society remains mobilised, active, innovative and indispensable. The dynamics driven by our partners and presented in this report bear witness to this. I believe it is crucial to reaffirm here the importance of strengthening investment in international solidarity and support for civil society organisations around the world. This is how we can, together, build a more stable, fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable world. These changes are pushing us to transform ourselves, strengthen our networks and innovate in order to increase our impact. We have therefore embarked on an internal transformation process, rooted in our identity as a university NGO, driven by action, critical reflection and innovation. 2024 marked a decisive step with the first joint strategic workshop between Eclósio and ULB-Coopération. This international meeting laid the foundations for UCOOPIA, which will be the result of the merger of our NGOs, designed to strengthen our impact, our academic roots and our resilience. This dynamic of transformation has also spread around us. On the campuses of the University of Liège, we have supported students in their civic engagement, particularly through educational and mobilising activities and initiatives such as service learning. At the European level, the 'The Future We Want' campaign has continued this momentum of civic engagement and expression. Elsewhere, our integrated approach combines research, education and development. In Peru, the SAMA project explores water and Andean market management through participatory and scientific approaches. In Senegal, the Champs écoles Paysans (Farmer Training Fields) are bringing innovations rooted in the local areas to fruition. In Guinea, we are training teachers and community leaders in environmental education. In Benin, we are supporting women leaders who are driving local change. Everywhere, we work with our partners and local communities to develop sustainable, systemic and resilient solutions. In 2024, Eclósio sowed the seeds of change. This report reflects our collective desire to nurture them, help them grow and bear fruit. We hope it will inspire and motivate you to continue taking action!

By **Sophie Pascal**, Eclósio coordinator

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Cover photo: Portrait of Sophie BODJRENOU, president of the Village Savings and Loan Association (AVEC) of Bobognon, located in a village in the municipality of Grand Popo, in south-western Benin. Bobognon is one of the AVECs supported by the project « [Construction de Systèmes Alimentaires Durables autour des filières maïs blanc et maïs violet et promotion des AVEC dans la réserve de Biosphère du Delta Mono](#) », funded by Enabel (Photo: Elisa Clerix, Eclósio).

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About Eclósio

Our vision

A world where current and future generations exercise their rights to live with dignity, in harmonious interaction with their environment.

Our mission

Eclósio: towards agroecological transition, the socio-economic integration of vulnerable populations and citizen engagement in addressing societal and climate issues

Together with the academic community and organised civil society, we are driving the agroecological transition, the socio-economic integration of populations made vulnerable by exclusion and inequality, and citizen engagement in the societal and climate challenges of our time. To achieve this, we implement inclusive initiatives, working together to develop skills, knowledge and innovative solutions, and encouraging engagement from the public and private sectors.

Our values

Our positioning, actions and operations are based on the ethical principles described and summarised below.

Respect for individuals and communities by valuing the opinions, experience, skills and contributions of others, and respect for the environment by adapting our actions and behaviour in a spirit of interdependence and sustainability.

Fairness in relationships between individuals and communities based on honesty, transparency and solidarity, without prejudice.

Integrity of our staff and members by avoiding conflicts of interest and condemning acts of fraud and corruption. We reject any physical, sexual or psychological abuse or mistreatment of one person by another, any discrimination and any behaviour that undermines human dignity.

Cooperation with our partners, acting together in a relationship of trust, placing mutual learning at the heart of our relationships.

Self-criticism and personal responsibility, embodying the change we want to see, in line with our values.

Commitment and personal fulfilment, contributing to a working environment where everyone can express themselves, develop their skills and commitment, and find joy in their daily work.

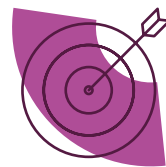
Areas of action

Eclosio works according to a systemic approach. This means that there are no barriers between our different areas of action: they are permeable, intersect, and reinforce each other.



Ecological transition

- Agroecology and sustainable food systems: we support the transition to agroecology through training, experience sharing, and methodological/technical support. We set up participatory action research projects where farming families and researchers experiment with new practices together.
- We support rural communities and vulnerable populations in the development and implementation of **sustainable land and natural resource management plans**. We organize actions to mitigate/adapt to climate change and protect ecosystems.
- In our projects, we take into account the **One Health** concept, which emphasizes the interdependence between human health, animal health, and the environment.



Socioeconomic integration

- **Value chains:** we strengthen and promote value chains for family farming products in order to promote agroecological and environmental practices.
- **Protection and social inclusion:** we support the development of solidarity-based systems (mutual aid and cooperation), in coordination with government interventions and private sector initiatives.
- **Social entrepreneurship, professional integration, and employment:** we support women and young people in finding or creating jobs related to food production or processing, through training, personalized follow-up, and support for social economy actors.



Citizen engagement in the face of societal and climate challenges

- **Gender and intersectional approach:** we aim to promote the informed and powerful participation of women in public decision-making, and we work to strengthen and secure women's access to factors of production and high-quality agricultural land. In Belgium, our actions aim to raise awareness and deconstruct relationships of domination.
- **Migration:** we take a positive view of migration dynamics and take their challenges into account in all our actions, in all countries.
- **Civil society and democracy:** we are involved in several initiatives and platforms that aim to establish civil society organizations as actors of development and change with the capacity to monitor, analyze, propose, and evaluate public policies.

Action methodologies



Training and skills development

We strengthen and support the partners and farmer organizations we work with, particularly in terms of their management capacities, legitimacy, and recognition in their territories. Our capacity-building activities (knowledge, skills, and attitudes) are designed to be participatory and inclusive, based on the experiences and knowledge of the participants. We therefore prioritize peer-to-peer experience sharing, field experimentation, and participatory action research, in which participants are both subjects and actors in the research process and experiment with innovative alternatives.



Advocacy

Present in most of our intervention strategies, advocacy (political and academic) is approached in different ways:

- Contributing to the co-construction of knowledge through action research, which enriches advocacy arguments with evidence.
- Accompanying and supporting our partners in their advocacy processes.
- Contributing to advocacy campaigns within multi-stakeholder platforms.



Multi-stakeholder partnerships, synergies, and networking

Thanks to our position at the interface between civil society, local expertise, and the academic community, we build partnerships, synergies, and complementarities with a wide variety of actors, particularly through platforms, networks, and multi-stakeholder dialogues (especially academics).



Knowledge management

We stimulate the flow of academic, practical, traditional, innovative knowledge (knowledge, know-how, interpersonal skills) between our various audiences and partners (through capitalization, training, awareness-raising, debates between our different areas of action and projects, etc.). We want to work with our audiences to receive, deconstruct, mix, reconstruct, and appropriate knowledge from other actors in order to move together towards sustainable and harmonious human development.



Global Citizenship and Solidarity Education (ECMS)

Through information, awareness-raising, and mobilization activities, we aim to educate students and members of the university community about global issues and their various power dynamics. To this end, we

organize training sessions (on interculturality, sustainable development, etc.), conferences, events, and film debates on topics related to global interdependencies, sustainable food systems, human rights, and more. We support groups of students who wish to implement awareness-raising or mobilization initiatives.



THE UNIVERSITIES' NGO

Faced with a rapidly changing world, marked by the scarcity of public funding and the transformation of the international solidarity sector, Eclasio (ULiège) and ULB-Coopération (ULB) have decided to join forces, joined by the University of Mons. This merger will give rise next year to **Ucoopia**, a new university NGO that will embody a renewed ambition: to better respond to global challenges through stronger, more agile action that is more firmly rooted in academic expertise. The adventure is set to begin in January 2026!

Why merge?

The creation of Ucoopia is based on a simple observation: together, we are more effective. This merger will enable us to pool resources, strengthen synergies between academic institutions, and maximize the impact of projects in the field. It will not interrupt any ongoing projects: partners and beneficiaries will continue to receive support, while paving the way for new opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and engagement.

A unique NGO

Ucoopia will become the **first inter-university NGO**, supported by three partner universities—ULB, ULiège, and UMONS. Its ambition is to become an essential reference on cooperation issues in Belgium and beyond. Its academic roots are at the heart of its identity: involvement in research and development

projects, practical application of research, civic education initiatives on campuses, partnerships with local universities, participation in European university alliances such as CIVIS, EUNICE, and UNIC, etc. This inter-university dynamic will also facilitate researchers' access to the field and to the expertise of local partners.

Our methodology

In its actions, **Ucoopia** will develop a systemic, transdisciplinary approach, rooted in the territories and based on a rigorous methodology: hypotheses, based on scientific literature and local knowledge, are tested in the field. The results obtained will contribute to adapting projects and feeding research in a dynamic of continuous improvement.

More info:

www.ucoopia.org

Our areas of action

Ucoopia will carry out its activities in five major regions of the world. This presence is based on a network of strong local partners and a long-term commitment to the territories.

Our areas of focus

Thanks to the combined expertise of its founding NGOs, Ucoopia will take action on issues that are crucial for sustainable and equitable development.



Sustainable food systems, agroecology, and natural resource management



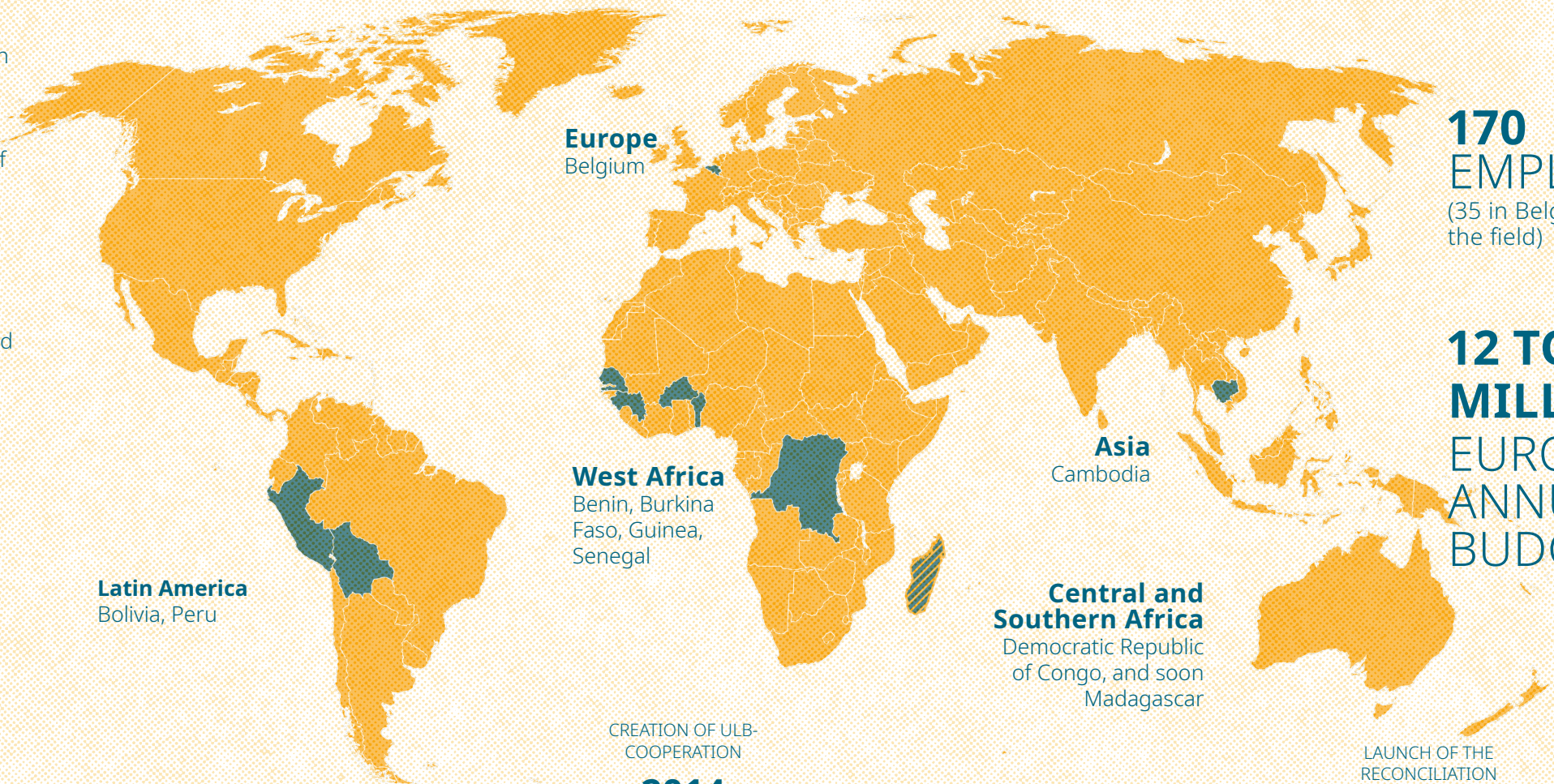
Health and health systems



Socio-economic integration of young people: sustainable and green entrepreneurship



Global citizenship education and lifelong learning



170
EMPLOYEES
(35 in Belgium and 135 in the field)

12 TO 16
MILLION
EUROS
ANNUAL
BUDGET

CREATION OF CEMUBAC (SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL CENTER OF THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS IN CENTRAL AFRICA, NOW ULBCOOPÉRATION)

1938

CREATION OF ADG (AIDE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT GEMBLOUX, NOW ECLOSIO)

1986

CREATION OF ULB-COOPERATION

2014

FIRST JOINT UNI4COOP PROGRAM

2017

2018

CREATION OF ECLOSIO

FIRST POSITION SHARED BETWEEN ULB-COOPÉRATION AND ECLOSIO

2021

2022

FIRST JOINT OFFICE IN SENEGAL

LAUNCH OF THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS

June 2024

Sept. 2024

FIRST STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

MERGER AND CREATION OF UCOOPIA

Jan. 2026

Eclosio, University NGO



In 2024, Eclósio sought to develop its academic dimension and its collaborations with academic stakeholders: on the one hand with the University of Liège in particular, and on the other hand with academic stakeholders in the various countries where we are present. Eclósio thus reaffirms its commitment to working with academic communities to engage in dialogue, identify and implement collaborations that have an impact and contribute to our respective visions and missions.

Education for Global Citizenship and Solidarity

In 2024, we participated in the establishment of a research group on resilience pedagogy for higher education, spearheaded by the Institute for Training and Research in Higher Education (IFRES) at the University of Liège. Beyond simply imparting knowledge, education must prepare students to face an uncertain and changing world: developing systemic thinking, reflective skills, and promoting agency. These reflections are fed into and complement the training courses and workshops we offer to students.

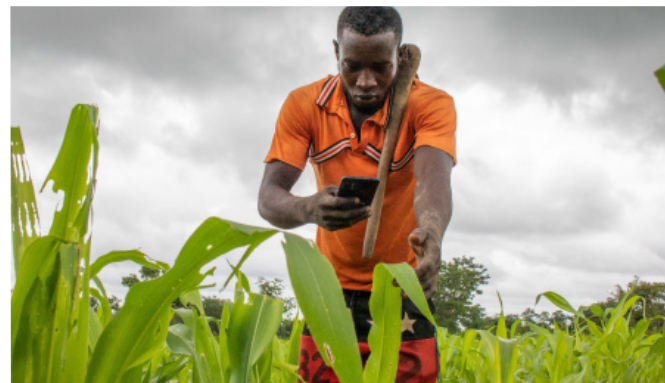
Also in 2024, the university invited the faculties to devote one credit of their program to sustainability and transition issues related to their discipline. Our NGO supported the faculties in setting up activities, leading workshops, training student monitors to supervise the discussions, and establishing links with local associations. This new opportunity offered by the university has led to the emergence of rich and high-quality spaces for reflection and opens the door to fruitful collaborations between Eclósio and the faculty.

Focus on the DigiCla project in northern Benin

In 2024, Eclósio successfully completed the [DIGICLA](#) project, carried out in partnership with the University of Parakou (LRIDA) and the ICT company ABC. This ambitious project tackled the fall armyworm, a feared corn pest, by focusing on innovation and inclusion. It brought together researchers and producers in Farmer Field Schools to test, compare, and then jointly select the most effective agroecological practices, drawn from both scientific literature and local knowledge. Once these solutions were validated, TIC ABC disseminated them via the Agricef app. Easy to use and available in local languages, it allows farmers to identify the presence of the caterpillar by photographing their field and receive tailored advice via engaging audio-visual content. But DIGICLA didn't stop there. To include the two-thirds of the population without smartphones, digikiosks were installed in villages. Managed by young "digipreneurs," these spaces broadcast educational videos every evening, while offering other useful services (solar charging and

sale of phone credits, document printing, etc.) and thus economic opportunities for these young people.

Thanks to this initiative, 1,260 farmers have been reached, and the percentage of fields attacked has been almost halved. The project has been widely praised, particularly during a major closing webinar co-hosted by the three partners. All project capitalization documents are available at: www.eclósio.org/project/digicla



Professor Daniel Faulx on a mission to Peru

April, Professor Daniel Faulx (Faculty of Psychology, Speech Therapy, and Educational Sciences at ULiège) traveled to Peru for an exchange visit on local knowledge and participatory action research, as part of our "[Food Systems, Market, and Water \(SAMA\)](#)" project. The objective was to understand and analyze how farmer-researchers have integrated the knowledge generated by the project and how to improve knowledge exchange, particularly in relation to community water management for agriculture in mountainous areas. This visit was followed, during the summer, by an internship with Victor Chavanne (ULiège), who worked on the methodological framework and dynamics of co-learning processes with farmer-researchers. An article on the subject is also being written.

The Uni4Coop consortium



In 2024, in a political context that is not particularly favorable to development cooperation, [Uni4Coop](#), the consortium bringing together four French-speaking university NGOs, is reaffirming its commitment more than ever. On campuses and in the field, it is rolling out initiatives to strengthen critical thinking, civic engagement, and solidarity, equipping students and partners in the Global South to tackle major global challenges.

Education for global citizenship and solidarity

In 2024, more than 400 students participated in [DJESA](#) (Half-day discussions on food sovereignty), in collaboration with Humundi and Vétérinaires sans frontières. **Campus in action**, co-organized with UMons, enabled around 30 students to collectively reflect on the links between racism and capitalism. A **Global Citizenship and Solidarity Education** (ECMS) module designed with BeGlobal was integrated into teacher training courses, reaching more than 370 future teachers. At the same time, Uni4Coop trained 224 Belgian students going on internships in the Global South, supported more than 50 student micro-projects, and contributed to a welcome day for 300 students from the South. The mid-term evaluation of the DGD program is currently underway. It is distinguished by its participatory approach, combining self-assessment and peer assessment, promoting genuine collective learning.

Practices for change

As part of the "**Inclusive Knowledge Management**" (GIIdS) program, Uni4Coop is conducting several case studies aimed at enriching the dynamics of cross-perspectives and co-construction. One focuses on **Fields School Farmers**, analyzing the

integration of farmer and scientific knowledge in the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Another explores the innovative "**triple perspective**" approach in Kinshasa, a space for dialogue between users, providers, and regulators of the healthcare system. A third has resulted in a book on the integration of **gender** issues into projects. These experiences demonstrate the importance of the intermediation work we do: facilitating, promoting dialogue, transmitting, creating the conditions for balanced participation. This work relies as much on technical skills as on human qualities: listening, neutrality, curiosity, and the ability to build trust.

New coordination

After many years of commitment to Uni4Coop, **Vincent Slÿpen is taking his well-deserved retirement**. We thank him for his wonderful collaboration. **Anne Depret**, previously quality support manager at Uni4Coop, is **taking over** as program coordinator. Congratulations to her. To read Vincent's farewell [interview](#), click here:



Follow-up visit to Linkéring (Senegal) with ULB-Coopération

Eclosio in key figures



51.573

Eclosio directly supports more than 50,000 people around the world*.



39

projects in 7 countries of intervention (Senegal, Benin, Guinea, Cambodia, Peru, Bolivia, and Belgium).



79

Eclosio works closely with 79 local partners.



92

A team of 92 employees, 72 of whom are national employees in the field.

20



volunteers and interns helped Eclosio carry out its activities in Belgium.

106



people participated in the eight training courses given by staff at Eclosio's headquarters in Belgium, and more than 3,000 people viewed the MOOC "Education for Global Citizenship" run by ULiège, in partnership with Eclosio.

1.298



people participated in activities promoting global citizenship and solidarity education in Belgium

83 %



of resources are allocated to projects, representing a budget of €4,603,025 (2024 figures).



10 €

Thanks to the support of our institutional donors, every euro donated raises up to €10 for our initiatives.

* This total figure, as well as the data per country shown in the boxes on the following pages, corresponds to the number of people who have directly benefited from or participated in our actions. Advocacy and indirect awareness-raising activities are therefore not included in these figures.

In the following pages, we are pleased to present some of our flagship projects and initiatives that illustrate how we apply our working themes in the field, together with our local partners. On our website www.eclosio.org, you will find a description of all our current and past projects.

Focus on our projects

Senegal



Belgium



Cambodia



Peru



Bolivia



Guinea



Benin



	Senegal		
21.002 beneficiaries	11 projects	18 partners	1.670.040 € budget

Market gardening in Koungeul came at just the right time

A year and a half ago, we set ourselves a bold challenge: **to relocate potato and onion production outside their traditional areas, without any investment in infrastructure.**

It was in this context that Eclasio and RESOPP, in partnership with FNDASP and Enabel, launched the **“Gungé Mbay (“Supporting Agriculture”) Koungeul Market Gardening Project”** in December 2023. This was far from a sure bet, given the unfavorable local climatic conditions and the choice of two crops that are sensitive to photoperiodicity, i.e., the ratio between day and night length.

However, thanks to the **Farmer Field Schools** (FFS) approach and the adoption of agroecological practices, onion and potato cultivation has become a reality in the Southern Peanut Basin since 2024.

What is a Farmer Field School ?

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) operate on a participatory model where producers are at the heart of the process, supported by technicians. Starting with a problem encountered in the field, participants work together to define a research protocol and test one (or more) solutions on one (or more) plots of land, while preserving a “control plot” where nothing has been changed from usual practices. This allows producers to see for themselves the effectiveness (or otherwise) of the solutions tested and makes them more inclined to adopt them in the long term. The Champs Écoles Paysans also provide a safe space for producers, where they can experiment on small areas without jeopardizing their family production.



Promising results

For the 2024-2025 vegetable growing season, the results recorded were identical for both crops, with an average yield of **24.4 tons per hectare and a peak of 29.6 tons per hectare**. These results—yields are usually around 18 tons per hectare—are considered a feat for a community new to onion and potato production in an area where market gardening was not very developed. Several factors explain this success:

- Early crop positioning**, with onion nurseries set up at the end of September and potato seedlings planted in mid-December;
- The dissemination of organic fertilization techniques** (mycorrhizal inoculum, soil amendments, and organic fertilizers);
- Local agricultural advice** offered to novice producers through the Champs Ecoles Paysans (Farmer Training Fields).

The development of these innovative production practices thus guarantees soil restructuring and increased yields over the years. According to the beneficiaries, the project came at just the right time. It allows them to remain active after the rainy season and to increase their income from small areas: **the income generated from 300m² of onion cultivation exceeds that obtained from one hectare of peanuts!**

However, a major challenge remains: scaling up this approach requires family farms to have access to productive water. To this end, an advocacy process has been launched with the FNDASP so that our beneficiaries can be connected to the “Nanija Bolong Watershed Water Resource Mobilization Project (PROMOREN),” launched by the President of the Republic of Senegal in February 2025. In the same vein, synergies have been identified with other projects and programs in the area that can provide solutions to the constraints of access to productive water and land.



375 producers, **80% of whom are women**, have been integrated into the onion and potato sectors. **1,042** producers have benefited from training in agroecological techniques.

	Benin		
5.046 beneficiaries	9 projects	8 partners	711.004 € budget

Supporting women’s entrepreneurship in the face of the climate emergency

Climate change is having a dangerous impact on rural areas in Benin. Prolonged drought, deforestation, declining agricultural yields: the consequences are particularly severe for women, who are the primary drivers of local economies. Aware of this situation, Eclasio and APEFE have launched the **“Women Entrepreneurs for Climate”** project in three pilot communities in northeastern Benin: Bembèrèkè, N’Dali, and Tchaourou.

The goal: to support rural women in their entrepreneurial initiatives so that they can strengthen their economic autonomy while preserving the environment.

Female leadership and climate

Beyond economic activities, the project focuses on strengthening female leadership. The women who receive training become agents of change in their villages: they raise awareness, train other women, and participate in local natural resource management bodies.

“Women Entrepreneurs for Climate” thus shows that it is possible to combine the fight against climate change, the inclusion of women, and economic dynamism. The solutions put forward by rural women are not only relevant, but also bring hope for more resilient and sustainable communities.

A strategic partnership for sustainable impact

The implementation of the project is based on strong collaboration between Eclasio, APEFE, and local actors. Monitoring tools have been developed to document impacts, capitalize on good practices, and facilitate the replication of the model. Today, the project is seen as an inspiring pilot experience that can be extended to other areas of Benin and beyond.

Testimonial

My name is ƆOUNOU Bèkègui. The Wanrou stove allows me to prepare dough and sauce with just two small pieces of wood. My husband no longer has to look for wood every time he goes to the field.






	Guinea		
13.583 beneficiaries	4 projects	6 partners	584.966 € budget

Training to preserve our living environment: environmental education takes root in Lower Guinea

Faced with the progressive degradation of mangrove ecosystems in Guinea, the [RACINE](#) Project, led by Eclodio in partnership with Guinée Écologie and with the support of the Audemars-Watkins Foundation, is focusing on an educational and community-based approach to reverse the trend. Within this framework, a series of training courses is being organized for teachers, community leaders, and local leaders in the prefectures of Boké, Boffa, and Dubréka. The aim is to strengthen their capacities in environmental and sustainable development education, so that schools can become real centers for behavioral change in the face of environmental challenges.

An ecological and social emergency

Guinea's coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Threatened by erosion, deforestation, and soil salinization, they are nevertheless home to populations whose survival depends heavily on the exploitation of natural resources, particularly mangroves. Poverty and illiteracy—estimated at nearly 70% in some areas—are among the causes of this worrying situation. Added to this is a lack of information, which contributes to practices that are harmful to the balance of these unique ecosystems. In this context, the RACINE Project stands out for its intergenerational approach, which places young people and learners at the heart of the environmental response. Students are trained to become relays in their communities, while in turn raising awareness among their out-of-school peers, their families, and even their elders.



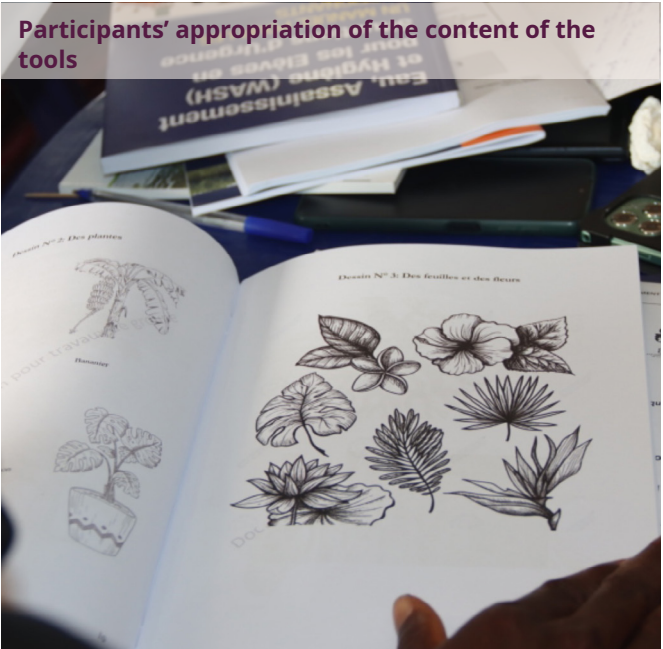
Mangrove landscape in Guinea

A participatory and sustainable vision

The approach adopted emphasizes the active participation of local actors: teachers, young people, community leaders, and also holders of traditional knowledge. Valuing the wisdom of elders and passing on ancestral ecological practices are seen as essential to promoting reconciliation between development, culture, and nature.

A monitoring mechanism has also been put in place to ensure the sustainability of the initiative. It includes field visits, regular evaluations, and tailored support. This enthusiasm is shared by Ousmane Camara, project coordinator: *“We understand the importance of this tool. It represents a real innovation in the execution of project activities. It allows each stakeholder to better understand their role and evaluate the impact of the actions taken. With this capacity building, collaboration with communities will be greatly facilitated.”*

Through this initiative, Eclodio and its partners hope to build **a generation that is aware, responsible, and committed to preserving its natural heritage**. The RACINE Project aims to make environmental education a permanent part of daily life in coastal communities, so that mangrove ecosystems are no longer seen as resources to be exploited, but as treasures to be protected.



	Cambodia		
4.144 beneficiaries	2 projects	13 partners	348.912 € budget

Promoting agroecological transition through the circular economy: the case of the Tramkak Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (TrUAC) in Cambodia.

Connecting agroecological products to markets is an essential step. Among the various ways of promoting them to consumers, one of the most effective is to create a space where producers and consumers can meet directly. This helps to build trust and strengthen circular economy practices within communities. This is the approach taken by the Tramkak Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (TrUAC).

Thanks to the support of the [PARTNER](#) (Partnership for Agroecology Transition, Networking and Efficient Resilience) project, led by Eclodio, TrUAC has been able to organize and participate in several events aimed at promoting its agricultural cooperative and its members. These activities include trade fairs, exhibitions, and farmers' markets.

A new farmers' market is born

On November 13, 2024, TrUAC inaugurated its own weekend farmers' market in the district of Tramkak, in collaboration with the provincial ministries of Agriculture and Trade. This market aims to create links between producers and consumers by promoting short, fair trade channels rooted in the local economy.

Many agroecological products, both fresh and processed, were presented by farmers from TrUAC's four member cooperatives. Fresh vegetables, harvested that very morning, particularly attracted the attention of consumers concerned about the quality and safety of the food they eat.



According to Mr. Kong Moeurn, president of TrUAC, the purpose of this weekend market is to showcase products grown and processed by farmers, agricultural cooperatives, and local small and medium-sized enterprises. It also provides an opportunity to forge partnerships with private companies, both within the district and beyond. The goal is to better meet the demand of the private sector while encouraging consumers to choose Cambodian products.



Speech by Mr. Kong Moeurn at the launch of the farmers' market.

The circular economy at the heart of this initiative

This initiative helps solve a major problem for many small farmers, whose production previously only allowed them to meet their own needs. Today, they can sell their surplus to local intermediaries or agricultural cooperatives, which then sell it at weekend farmers' markets.

This farmers' market represents a key step in the practical adoption of the circular economy. It promotes fair solutions that are tailored to local needs and resources, and encourages more balanced and sustainable trade. By strengthening short food supply chains, this model enables producers to increase their incomes while guaranteeing fair prices for consumers. This approach is fully in line with the objectives of the PARTNER project.

A group of enthusiastic students pose in front of the TrUAC stands after purchasing agricultural products.



	Peru		
4.000 beneficiaries	3 projects	7 partners	540.061 € budget

SAMA – tackling the challenge of water for agriculture

Between 2021 and 2024, the [SAMA](#) project worked to improve water management, access to local markets, and analyze their impact on agroecological transition. It was based on participatory action research (PAR), directly involving farmers in experiments and the analysis of results. This work was carried out with farming families in Aija, in the arid Andes of northwestern Peru (Ancash, between 3,000 and 4,000 meters above sea level).

The project confirmed a key finding: **water scarcity remains the main obstacle to the development of agroecology**. This problem, exacerbated by climate change, limits the production of agricultural surpluses and therefore access to markets. Water management is therefore becoming a strategic priority, both in terms of production and society.

“Water is essential for humans, animals, and agriculture,” says Pedro Ávila (Aija producer). “Young people are leaving because there is no water; they are leaving in search of a better life elsewhere. If there were more water here, many things could be produced, we could plant all year round, and markets would open up.”



Sowing water?

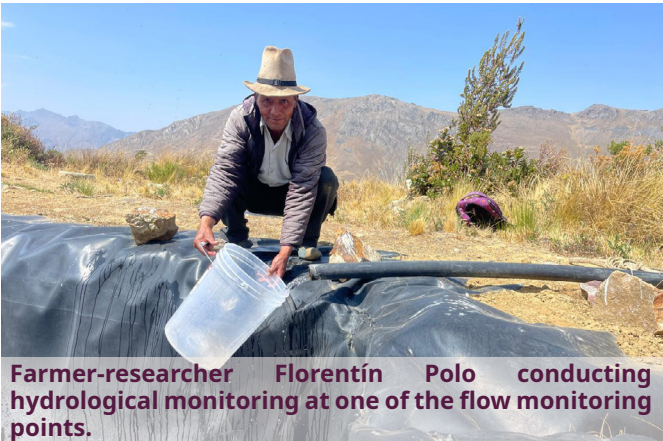
To address this issue, the flagship action of the SAMA project aims to “sow and harvest” water by protecting high-altitude marshes and lagoons, reforesting certain areas, and restoring old infiltration ditches—some of which date back to pre-Hispanic times. Farmer-researchers, elected by their peers, led these actions with project technicians and students from the local university.

Hydrological monitoring made it possible to measure the water flow downstream of the protection measures, at the sources and streams, on a monthly basis. This concrete data now informs decision-making. Despite the short implementation period, the first results are visible with improved flow rates and the return of natural vegetation. *“Before, we had almost no water,” said a group of women farmers and researchers during a focus group. “We had no lagoons upstream, so rainwater flowed directly to the coast. Now we have created water reservoirs. This year, we have already used up all the water, but next year will be better.”*

A social harvest

On a social level, knowledge sharing is progressing. The RAP approach, peer exchanges, and collaboration between communities and universities have enabled more inclusive knowledge management, strengthening trust and encouraging the dissemination of practices. It also brings higher education closer to rural realities. Several AIs have thus seen their leadership role and self-esteem strengthened, and their recognition increased. As Gumercindo Rondán, AI, says: “I am a researcher, I am also an inventor. Come to my house, I want to share what I know with you.” Awareness and collective action remain a challenge, however. Commitment varies from community to community, influenced by leadership, potential conflicts, or interests at stake.

Despite other structural challenges—rural exodus, mining pressure, national policies—SAMA opens up exciting prospects. A new initiative is also in the works, focusing on the rehabilitation of pre-Hispanic high-altitude lagoons.



	Bolivie		
2.500 beneficiaries	3 projects	3 partners	264.257 € budget

Autonomous territorial governance in the Altiplano

Imagine an arid steppe at an altitude of 3,800 meters. Llamas raising their heads among the sparse grass. A herd of vicuñas dancing in the sand. A field of quinoa braving the drought. A sun that burns your skin. A wind that stings your eyes. A nighttime cold that pierces your bones... but also imagine people smiling, community leaders committed to self-determination, women entrepreneurs... Welcome! You are in the southern Altiplano of Bolivia, more precisely in Salinas, a stone's throw from the Uyuni salt flats!



Towards autonomous territorial governance

In Bolivia, the inhabitants of Salinas chose a new model of local autonomy in 2018, based on their traditions. Thanks to the Constitution, a municipality can become an **Indigenous Native Peasant Autonomy** (AIOC), which allows citizens to govern their territory according to their customs.

It is now no longer governed by a mayor, but by a Qolqi Qamachi, a rotating authority chosen from among the nine geographical sectors (UTDs) of the municipality. For Emilio Aguilar, from the AIOC's constitutional commission, “Our ancestors’ way of governing was correct and structured. We want to return power to our original authorities.” Our local partner, APROSAR¹, has accompanied this transition, with the support of Eclósio. In particular, they have helped to draft the new statutes of Salinas, ensuring gender equality and the recognition of women's rights and autonomy. This support continues today, particularly for the implementation of the Community Territorial Management Plan (PGTC) and advisory support for the creation of UTD statutes and standards.

¹ Association of Rural Health Promoters

Towards greater autonomy for women

The project also trains women leaders so that they can take their rightful place in local governance. Sara Poma Huarachi, the first woman elected as Qolqi Qamachi, recounts: *«At first, I faced many obstacles. I had no experience in managing the AIOC, the situation was overwhelming, and my husband was the target of very harsh comments. But I persevered. I called on professionals to support me, and that enabled me to move forward. We can grow our communities, we can be women leaders and entrepreneurs, but we need everyone's commitment.»*



The project also supports women's economic initiatives, such as that of the Bartolina Sisa organization in Salinas. *“Our initiative focuses on quinoa processing,” explains Florinda Gonzales. “We started making quinoa flakes with dehydrated fruits to strengthen women and their families economically, improve their quality of life, and empower our women leaders to be economically independent.”*



Progress... and challenges

This model is inspiring, but it is not without obstacles: administrative delays, poorly adapted national standards, and the risk of falling back into the pitfalls of the previous system (lack of participation, conflicts of interest, corruption). These are all challenges that our project will attempt to address until 2026.

	Belgium		
1.298 beneficiaries	7 projects	24 partners	483.784 € budget

A transnational caravan takes on fast fashion

The summer of 2024 saw the culmination of the “[The Future We Want](#)” project: 45 young people from nine European countries (Germany, Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia) traveled across Europe to raise awareness of their demands for a desirable future, with fast fashion as their (collectively decided!) target. It was a vast program for this protest trip, referred to in the project as the “transnational caravan.”

« The idea of a transnational caravan has always been driven by the belief that, in order to change things, we need to talk about them. And we did! Young people, students, families, the media, representatives of local institutions—more than 10,000 people who will now think twice before buying something. »

Andreea, project coordinator (A.R.T. Fusion)

The common thread: fighting against the excesses of the textile industry

« The textile industry alone accounts for 10% of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to environmental problems, it also causes social problems. »

Pauline, participant

Awareness-raising and advocacy tools were designed and developed by the various participants, including a petition, several political meetings, direct street actions, artistic performances, educational activities, and more.

Four clear demands

1. Include a ban on fast fashion advertising in the European Green Deal.
2. Combat greenwashing in advertising by adopting the existing European directive on environmental claims.
3. Regulate the practices of fast fashion brands by limiting clothing production to a maximum of four collections per year.
4. Require EU member states to impose sanctions on fast fashion companies that exceed these limits, with the aim of limiting overproduction.

These demands have been presented to several policy makers, notably in the European Parliament.



Meeting at the European Parliament with MEPs Sarah Schlitz and Saskia Bricmont

« Once we had our passes, our texts prepared, and our bags searched, we entered a parallel world. A hectic world filled with hurried suits and ties, journalists on the lookout, and so on. (...) We emerged from this adventure stronger, with the desire to continue the fight and the hope of triumphing in the end! Young people are alive, young people are speaking out, and young people are waiting for action and will no longer be satisfied with words. »

Pauline Cubelier, participant

The end of a project

At the end of December, the Belgian group got together for a Slow Fashion Tour and a sewing/repair workshop with the aim of discovering sustainable fashion alternatives in Liège. Behind fashion, there is of course a need to raise awareness, question and advocate for a paradigm shift, but there is also a need to reclaim our creative skills, collectively.



Belgian group at the final event: (from left to right) Leina, Pauline, Romane, Juliette, Ornella

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Eclosio [has been recognized in Continuing Education](#) in Axis 1 “Participation, education, and citizen training” since 2011. Among the activities organized in 2024, we held a **round table** in Gembloux in collaboration with the “International Student Circle.” The objective was to discuss issues of interculturality, relationships with others, and racial discrimination experienced by young people who have just arrived in Belgium to study. Over the course of several months, a relationship of trust was established, allowing us to build and reflect on how their experiences resonate within the faculty and the community. In this context, we are filming a documentary on young people’s engagement and supporting them in speaking out.

At the same time, we joined the Gembloux intercultural committee with the aim of creating synergies around intercultural issues within the community. This committee is made up of around ten organizations, including the Migrant Support Service, the Red Cross, the social cohesion plan, the cultural center, the Alpha Gembloux group, and the non-profit organization “Amis entends-tu?” ... These organizations cater to a diverse audience: young and old, people from migrant backgrounds, schools, unaccompanied foreign minors, students, etc.

Academic advocacy

Following our support for the Cercle International des Etudiants de Gembloux (CIE) in its round table discussion on racism on campus, a discussion with Aurore Degré, then vice-dean of education at the Faculty of Gembloux, reignited academic advocacy for actions to raise awareness of discrimination and promote an intercultural approach. Thanks to her connection with the **Namur Academic Pole** (PAN) working group on this topic, a collaboration was launched to take action in Namur’s higher education institutions. Building on a training program already developed by Uni4Coop for ARES scholarship students, a new module was designed for a wider audience, including international students. This module will be tested in February 2025 and will also

be open to academic staff. The aim is to make these workshops a permanent feature in order to promote a more inclusive and respectful climate on campuses.

In November 2024, two of our colleagues also spoke at the first **Thema Talk** organized by the Academy of Research and Higher Education (ARES), entitled “*Agroecology in question. Cross perspectives with academic cooperation.*” Pierre Collière, program manager and agroecology advisor at Eclosio, shared the challenges encountered in the agroecology development projects carried out by our NGO and its partners. Eric Capoen, coordinator of our Peru-Bolivia regional office, presented a comparative analysis of the environmental, sociocultural, and economic impacts of two production systems (agroecological and conventional) in the context of Andean family farming in Peru. Their presentations are available on the website:

<https://ares.maglr.com/thema-talk-1>

Training

For its third edition, the training course “[Understanding and managing the human dimensions of sustainable development change projects](#)” welcomed 12 participants (5 men and 7 women) from several African countries over a period of four months. Co-organized by ULiège and Eclosio, with the support of ARES, this training course aims to support the development of the skills of professionals who manage, lead, and support change projects focused on sustainable development. Around twenty speakers, including many academics, lead the various modules of the training course.

In 2024, Eclosio also facilitated [workshops on agroecology and water management](#) in Guatemala and Senegal as part of the Frères des Hommes Luxembourg cooperation framework program. Our team used a variety of tools, methodologies, and activities to fuel the diagnostic, capitalization, and evaluation processes based on the participants’ experiences.



Participants in the 2024 edition of the training course “Understanding and managing the human dimensions of sustainable development change projects”

Highlights

2024



Senegal

Collaboration with FNDASP

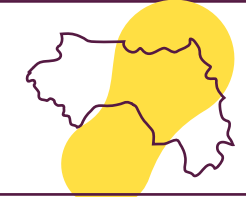
Eclosio has entered into a strategic partnership with FNDASP as part of the [GUNGUE MBAY](#) program funded by Enabel, which offers promising prospects. Three complementary projects are being implemented in the departments of Foundiougne, Nioro du Rip, and Kounghoul, aimed at supporting agroecological transition and the development of cooperative societies. In 2024, more than 400 Farmer Field Schools have made it possible to test and widely disseminate good agroecological practices and their importance for the sustainable improvement of agricultural yields. This strategic partnership, rooted in local policies, aims to expand to other areas in the coming years.



Benin

Review of the roadmap of the Benin Gulf Deltas Collective

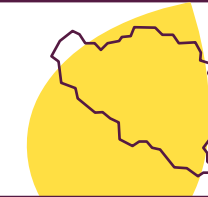
Created in 2018, [the Benin Gulf Deltas Collective](#) (CDGB) brings together stakeholders from Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Togo to preserve estuaries, mangroves, and river-marine systems. Meeting in Grand Popo on May 30 and 31, 2024, members assessed the progress of their actions and jointly developed a new roadmap. This roadmap aims to strengthen regional coordination for ecosystem conservation, marine and coastal surveillance, the fight against IUU (illegal, unreported, and unregulated) fishing, and the degradation of mangroves.



Guinea

Support for 20 economic interest groups (EIGs)

As part of the Socio-Ecological Resilience of Mangroves project, Eclosio is supporting 20 communities in the prefectures of Boffa, Dubréka, and Boké to strengthen economic initiatives for women and young people. Organized into EIGs, these groups have been assisted in developing business plans in six sectors (salt farming, oyster farming, fish smoking, market gardening, beekeeping, and school nurseries). Coaching and sector analysis complete this process to ensure the sustainability of the EIGs' activities.



Belgium

Farmhouse table in Seraing

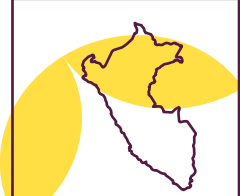
During the first Nourrir Seraing Festival, Eclosio and the Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise brought together around thirty people from various backgrounds around the concept of farmers' tables. The concept: to bring "eaters" and "farmers" together around a good local, seasonal, and convivial meal to discuss various topics. The common thread for this edition was food security. This activity provided an opportunity to reflect on the inclusion of different audiences, support for the farming community, and responsible consumption patterns, with one goal in mind: to work together to make food sovereignty accessible!



Bolivia

Binational meeting of impulSAD program partners in La Paz

This event was held from October 21 to 25, with 35 project representatives from 13 local organizations partnering with the Bolivian and Peruvian [programs](#). The program included sharing local experiences, field visits and meetings with farming families, analysis of certain project indicators, analysis and reflection on strategies, progress and difficulties, assessment and prospects for collective working spaces between partners, various self-questioning exercises, etc. This was a pivotal moment in our 2022-2026 Andean program.

Peru

External mid-term evaluation of the impulSAD program

The external evaluation of the [ImpulSAD](#) program was based on a participatory and qualitative methodological approach, aimed at promoting dialogue, critical reflection, and collective learning among the actors involved. Each of the 11 partners—Louvain Coopération, Eclosio, and the local partners—conducted an internal self-assessment workshop. This first step was followed by two days of peer evaluation, bringing together all the partners and Bolivian stakeholders. This process enabled an in-depth cross-evaluation of the program's dynamics, progress, and challenges, generating rich mutual learning and recommendations for the future.



Cambodia

Drops of hope

Drip irrigation systems are still relatively new to Cambodian farmers. Designed to be resilient to climate change, this type of installation has restored hope for increased cultivation during the dry season (November to May). The [PArTNER](#) project has supported the installation of these systems on the farms of many farmers in the target areas. Sann La, a beneficiary from Kampong Thom province who received this support in 2024, said: *"It has many positive impacts on my family. It is easy to use. It saves time, labor, and water, reduces diseases, insects, and weeds, and increases yields."*



Outlook

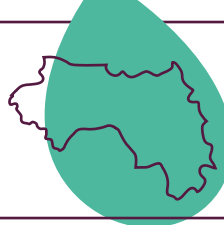
2025



Senegal

Launch of the Jagros program

As part of the scaling up of the [GOYN](#) (Global Opportunity Youth Network) initiative in the Thiès region, Eclasio will launch a large-scale program called “Parcours Jagros” in 2025. This project embodies Eclasio’s commitment to encouraging young people and players in the entrepreneurial ecosystem to develop the horticulture sector. The program aims to integrate 5,000 young people, strengthen the technical, organizational, and managerial skills of ecosystem players, and encourage synergies for more impactful actions in favor of youth and the local economy.



Guinea

Continuation and expansion of activities in mangrove areas

As part of our work in mangrove areas, our team will continue to support 20 economic interest groups by training them in the use of the environmental integration tool (OIE), which takes into account the relationship between the environment and productive activity.

It will also continue to develop environmental education activities in schools while developing and expanding new partnerships in our areas of action.



Benin

Launch of the Forum for Cross-Disciplinary Knowledge (FoSaC)

In 2025, Eclasio Benin will launch FoSaC, a space for dialogue between researchers, field actors, decision-makers, and communities. The goal is to promote the diversity of scientific, empirical, and traditional knowledge on sustainability, agroecology, and the resilience of food systems. FoSaC aims to become a regular forum for meetings and collective learning, promoting social innovation and systemic change. It is part of our desire to strengthen synergies between actors and foster dynamics rooted in local realities. The first pilot edition is scheduled for the end of 2025.



Belgium

Development of ECMS in the South

The development of education for global citizenship and solidarity (ECMS) in the South is an important part of our thinking. In 2024, we entered into a partnership with Gaston Berger University in Senegal to reflect on this issue together. An article on the subject is currently being written by a professor from the partner university, a researcher from the University of Liège, and Eclasio. We are also supporting a thesis on this subject. The medium-term objective is to set up training courses for ECMS facilitators in the field. At the same time, the ECMS team in Belgium is supporting colleagues in the field who wish to integrate this approach into their projects.



Bolivia

Resumption of Alternativas’ activities in Mecapaca and Viacha

The definitive closure of the Alternativas Foundation at the end of 2024 has raised uncertainties about the future of the greenhouse projects in Mecapaca and Viacha (La Paz). However, an agreement has been reached between Alternativas, Welthungerhilfe (Germany), the TIERRA Foundation, and Proinpa: the latter will continue its work in Viacha with the support of the German NGO, while TIERRA will resume its activities in Mecapaca with the support of Eclasio. This transition opens up promising prospects, particularly synergies with a local governance project already being carried out by TIERRA in the region.





Peru

Towards a new action research project related to water for agriculture

The Food Systems, Market, and Water ([SAMA](#)) project has been extended until June 2025, with support from the McKnight Foundation, in order to capitalize on lessons learned and strengthen spaces for reflection. Building on the positive impact of the water component, Eclasio, DIACONIA (Peruvian partner), the University of Reading (England), the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), and other allies have submitted a new action research proposal. This proposal focuses on the rehabilitation of pre-Hispanic high-altitude lagoons and ancestral hydraulic systems in the Cordillera Negra (Ancash).



Cambodia

Fund for Gender Inclusiveness (F4GI)

In December 2024, Eclasio’s partner organization Banteay Srei, which specializes in gender issues, launched the Fund for Gender Inclusiveness (F4GI) initiative for beneficiaries of the [PARTNER](#) project, particularly women. This initiative aims to strengthen women’s participation in decision-making processes within agricultural cooperatives. It also provides them with the tools they need to conduct participatory research and formulate funding proposals related to sustainable agricultural and social protection projects. The F4GI initiative will continue in 2025 to complete the program cycle.



A member of the Banteay Srei team gives instructions on the F4GI to the board of directors of a cooperative in Kampong Thom province.

Our teams

Senegal



Belgium



Cambodia



Peru



Guinea



Benin



THE TEAMS

Eclosio has 92 professionals: 18 in Belgium, 38 in Senegal, 20 in Benin (including one expatriate), five in Guinea, six in Cambodia, and five in Peru (including one expatriate)

Changes to the Administrative Body (OA)

The majority of administrators were coming to the end of their term of office and stood for re-election. Patrick Wautelet, Jean Danis, Nathalie Fagel, Jean-Luc Hornick, Jean-Marc Simar, and Anne Totte were re-elected. We thank them for their continued interest and involvement in Eclosio!

Xavier Reckelbus joined us as a new member and administrator, bringing his financial expertise to Eclosio. Welcome! Raphael Coppin and Aurore Degré left the Administrative Body. We thank them both for their involvement! Jean Danis also joined the ULB-Coopération Administrative Body in 2024: we are thus moving towards a better understanding and integration of our NGOs, on the road to UCOOPIA!

Team developments

In 2024, the team in Belgium and the vast majority of teams in our countries remained stable. In Benin, we welcomed Elisa Clerix as a junior expert for Enabel. Her mission is to develop a communication strategy for West Africa and to support our teams in Benin, Senegal, and Guinea in communicating their projects. We would like to thank all the teams for their commitment and for making Eclosio what we are today! Our NGO has continued to work closely with ULB-Coopération with a view to merging to form UCOOPIA. Our teams interact regularly, work at the intersection of the two NGOs, and fully embody the vision of the future structure. Numerous joint working groups and workshops are now in place to move forward together towards the merger. The construction of our future organizational chart is also underway, with one goal in mind: that each and every one of us finds our place and can contribute according to our expectations and skills within the future expanded team.

Interns

In 2024, Eclosio welcomed around fifteen interns across all countries of operation.

In **Belgium**, Marion, Prisca, Juriel, Clara, and Matthieu contributed to the smooth organization of our ECMS actions, the development of an educational tool, and the creation of awareness-raising activities. Brieuc and Maria came to support our project management team. Brieuc created climate sheets and maps of the different areas of intervention. Maria analyzed TAPE data (which is used to evaluate agroecology performance) for Benin. Eclosio and ULB-Coopération also welcomed their very first joint intern: Bastien joined us for a two-year period as part of a work-study master's program and is supporting our communications teams in the transition to Ucoopia.

In **Benin**, our teams welcomed Farène, from the University of Parakou, whose internship consisted of supporting the process of capitalizing on the [ProSAD](#) project.

In **Senegal**, Mouhamed NDIAYE and Mouhamed LAM, both from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, completed internships related to inoculum production and bio-inputs, respectively. Ramata (Alioune Diop University) provided support for the financial and accounting management of our projects.

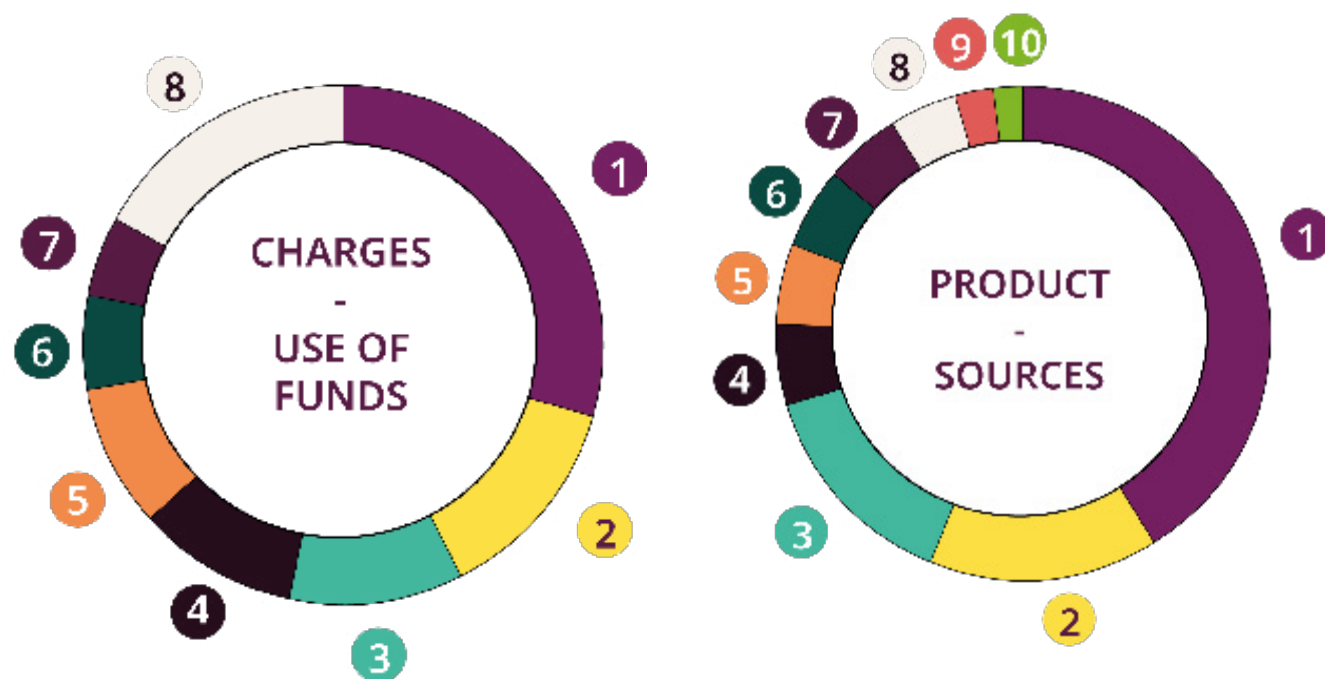
In **Cambodia**, five interns supported our team. Salomé and Ou assessed the demand for quality rice in the Phnom Penh region. Adèle and Sochéat observed the extension system among farmers. Ly provided administrative and communication support to the team.

Finally, in **Peru**, Victor (ULiège) worked on co-learning processes with farmer-researchers.

Thank you all for your motivation and commitment!

The [Code of Ethics and Integrity](#) signed by Eclosio showcases its identity and commitment. It reflects our universal values and affirms our commitment to condemning all cases of abuse, fraud, or corruption. A first version of this code was approved by Eclosio's Board of Directors in December 2018 and then revised in December 2024. Complaints relating to integrity can be addressed to our integrity officer at sylvie.alves@eclosio.org. No complaints were reported in 2024.

Financial statement 2024



Projects :		€	%
1	In Senegal	1.670.040	30
2	In Benin	711.004	13
3	In Guinea	584.966	11
4	In Peru	540.061	10
5	In Belgium	483.784	9
6	In Cambodia	348.912	6
7	In Bolivia	264.257	5
8	Project support	945.139	17
Total		5.548.164 €	

Sources :		€	%
1	DGD (Belgian cooperation)	2.286.462	41
2	European government agencies (including Enabel)	843.294	15
3	Various	784.349	14
4	European Union	294.325	5
5	Employment assistance	288.053	5
6	Membership fees and donations (individuals, foundations, associations)	287.914	5
7	Partner contributions	285.400	5
8	Belgian federated entities	246.615	4
9	ULiège subsidies	140.000	3
10	Training and services	98.121	2
Total		5.554.533 €	

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Thank you also to all our donors, as well as to the Lardinois Fund for their support!

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discuss social and
environmental issues

Contact us !

alienor.pirlet@eclosio.org [for Gembloux]

emilie.koch@eclosio.org [for Liège]

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Make a donation! Thanks to the support of our institutional donors, every euro you donate allows us to raise up to €10 for our actions. Your financial support is essential to the realization of our projects. Contribute to our actions by making a donation to account BE04 5230 8027 2831 (tax certificate for all donations of €40 or more).

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