



Annual Report 2024



SECODEV
COOPÉRATION AU DÉVELOPPEMENT



Helping small farming families, women and young people in developing countries to become tomorrow's agents of change.

Young Burundian farmer

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A word from the President & Director ✦

International solidarity at risk: A call to action

The year 2024 will be remembered as a worrying turning point, with numerous budget cuts to international solidarity and strategies of national withdrawal. Switzerland is no exception to this trend: Parliament has decided to massively reduce the budgets allocated to international cooperation. From 2025, CHF 110 million will disappear, followed by a further CHF 231 million between 2026 and 2028. These cuts jeopardise essential projects and threaten access to fundamental rights for millions of people around the world.

These decisions undermine not only the most vulnerable communities, but also the impact of civil society organisations, whose expertise and commitment are widely recognised. In this difficult context, solidarity and collective action take on their full meaning. Your support, now more than ever, is essential.

Despite the health, economic and climatic crises of recent years, our 2020-2024 programme has produced concrete and lasting results. Thanks to the strength of our partnerships in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Mali and Laos, thousands of families have been able to improve their food security, access training, strengthen their resilience and regain hope. This progress would not have been possible without your loyal commitment. We sincerely thank you.

In 2025, we open a new cycle, resolutely focused on the future. Our 2025-2028 programme builds on the lessons of the past and adapts to a changing context. For the first time, we will be working in India, while also ending our work in Mali, after decades of fruitful collaboration.

We will continue to act on four priorities: food sovereignty, vocational training, climate justice and gender equality. Our commitment is firm, and our determination has been strengthened.

Together, we can still make a difference. Thank you for your confidence.

Michel Warynski
President

Anne Simon
Director

Results

2024 in figures



1,500 young people

(including 700 young women) lifted their incomes



50,000 people

(including 27,400 women) enhanced their living conditions



6,200 children

(including 3,300 girls) experienced a better school environment



19,000 people

(including 9,900 women) improved their awareness on gender issues



71% of young people

found employment after vocational training



244 farming structures

were supported

CHF 1,108,994 was invested in the field, from an overall budget of CHF 1,449,216

Secodev, established over 50 years ago, is a non-governmental organisation with a mission is to combat and eliminate poverty in the South.

The development aid programme “Reversing the impoverishment of people living in rural areas” is developed with local partners and based on the needs of the most disadvantaged communities.

Specialising in countries that have suffered armed conflict or are still experiencing tense geopolitical situations, Secodev works in particularly isolated regions where war and violence have claimed many victims, primarily women and children.

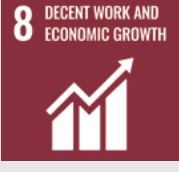
Thanks to its expertise in food sovereignty and vocational training, it enables the populations it supports – in particular families of small-scale farmers, women and children – to become genuine agents of change, to become autonomous and to improve their living conditions in a sustainable way.

Primarily focusing on a methodology of reinforced social inclusion, Secodev ensures that its programmes include the most vulnerable social groups, such as widows, widowers, young people, young single mothers and ex-prisoners, all who are often left behind.



Congolese farmer

A portrait...



Countries where we operate

Mali

In the Malian farmers' organisations we supported, 54% of the management committees were made up of women.



Democratic Republic of Congo

9,000 people, including 6,150 women, were sensitised to gender issues, intra-family conflicts and income management.



Burundi

28 farmers' organisations were supported in their economic and social development.



India

A vocational training and counselling centre has been opened.



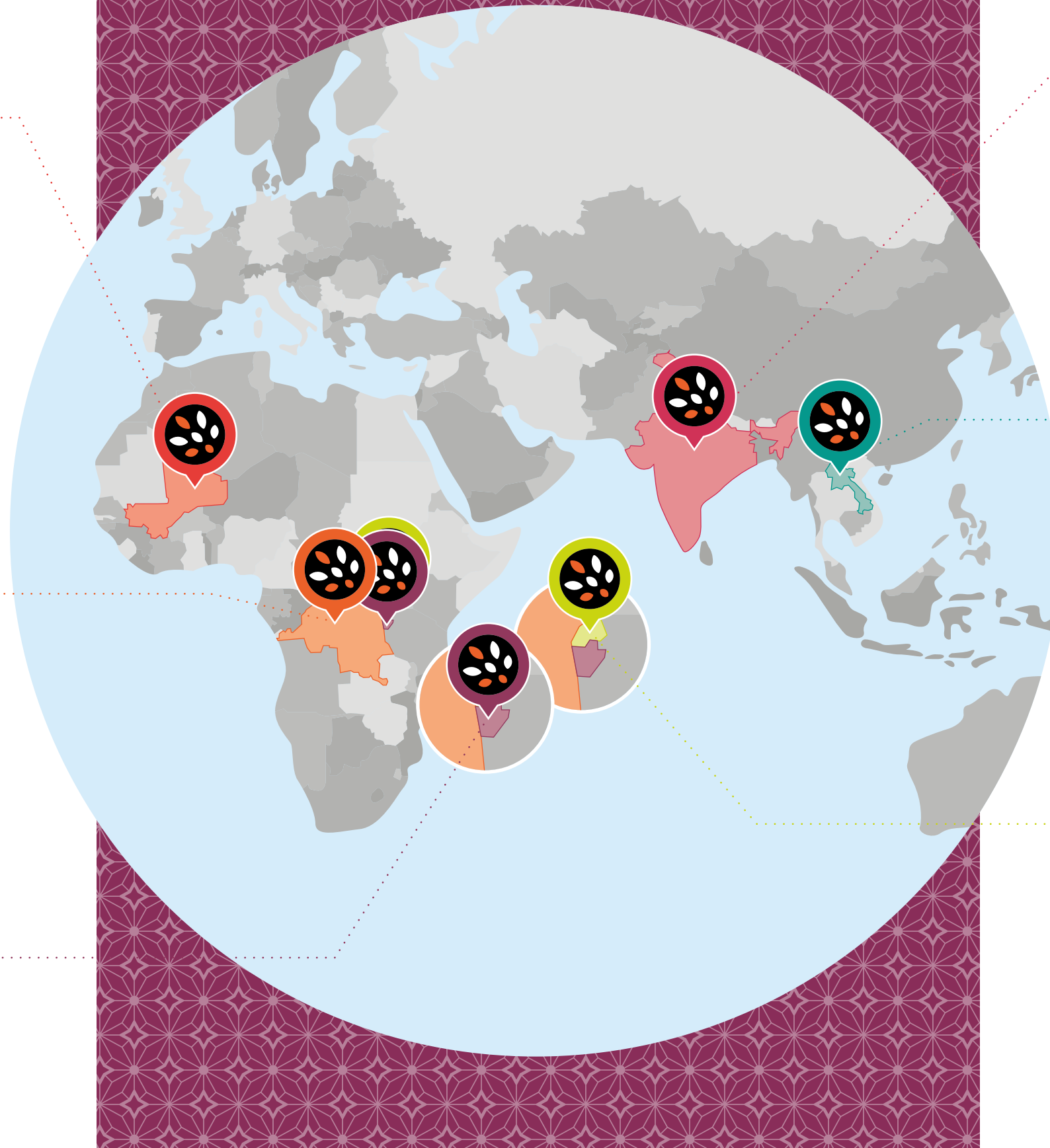
Laos

912 teachers, including 356 women, received training in new teaching approaches.



Rwanda

4,000 people, including 2,250 women, carried out reforestation and environmental conservation activities.





News from Switzerland

Strengthening our roots in Switzerland and collective dynamics

In 2024, Secodev strengthened its presence in Switzerland around two major objectives: raising public awareness of international solidarity and promoting its practices within the ECC-Alliance (Empowering Communities for Change), which it co-founded in 2023.

As part of its awareness-raising activities, Secodev took part in several major events in Geneva and Switzerland. In particular, its presence at the annual conference of public authority partners of the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC) helped to consolidate links with institutional players. In addition, Secodev's director took part in a round table organised by the Commune of Plan-les-Ouates on solidarity-based responses to the climate emergency, illustrating the organisation's expertise.

Secodev also took part in events organised by the Plateforme Souveraineté Alimentaire and the FGC, highlighting its initiatives and strengthening dialogue with local authorities and the general public.

The year 2024 also marked a major step forward in the collective work carried out with the members of the ECC-Alliance. After numerous working sessions, an ambitious joint programme was finalised for launch in January 2025. Although praised for its quality and relevance by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the programme could not be funded due to federal budget cuts.

Despite this, the SDC and the members of the alliance have confirmed their desire to continue working together. A Memorandum of Understanding will provide a framework for this cooperation over the period 2025-2028, illustrating a shared commitment to sustainable development.

Launch of an innovative project to promote inclusive employment for people with disabilities in Goa, India

Secodev is proud to announce the launch of a new project dedicated to inclusive employment of people with disabilities in Goa, India. This project was born out of close collaboration with a local organisation renowned for its commitment to mental health in a region where people living with mental or cognitive disorders suffer severe prejudice.

Using an innovative, participative approach that focuses on each individual's abilities, Secodev helps young people and adults with learning disabilities to become agents of their own change. Individualised, personalised support enables them to feel valued and gain in confidence.

To meet their desire for a dignified job, participants follow a tailor-made pathway, adapted to their interests, needs and abilities. The programme begins with basic training, which combines the development of essential social skills with the acquisition of appropriate vocational competencies. For the majority, this is their first experience in the world of work, marking a decisive step towards professional integration. The project also includes practical support in the form of work placement, a real bridge to employment, as well as active support in finding a job and putting people in touch with employers, thus facilitating easier and more inclusive access to employment.

Initial feedback has been very encouraging, with the first training cycles giving participants an insight into the world of work through short work placements. The mother of Clarissa, a young participant, says that the course has restored her daughter's confidence. With her first salary, Clarissa hastened to buy medicine for her mother, a symbolic gesture of pride and autonomy.

Secodev warmly thanks its financial partners for their confidence.

Secodev: Launch of the project in India





Congolese farmer returning from the fields

Review of the 2020-2024 action plan



Market life in Rwanda

2020-2024 programme: A success story despite the crises

The 2020-2024 programme has achieved the ambitious targets that were set, despite challenges on an unprecedented scale. The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and numerous global crises have not dampened our determination. Structured around three main areas - food sovereignty, education and vocational training, and the capitalisation and sharing of knowledge - this programme incorporated key cross-cutting areas: gender equality and the fight against climate change.

A commitment focused on the most vulnerable

At the heart of our work is a clear objective: to support the most vulnerable families. By focusing on initiatives led by themselves and for themselves, we have fostered social cohesion, combated poverty and exclusion, and improved livelihoods. Secodev has played a key role in mobilising and accompanying its nine local partners, defining projects that will bring about sustainable change.

Concrete results for transformed lives

Nearly 50,000 people have seen their daily lives improved in a tangible and lasting way. Families have been able to enjoy better living conditions, with a significant improvement in their income and housing. Health services have been made accessible to communities that were previously deprived of them. Many children, having returned to school, have seen their future prospects brighten. And community savings schemes have enabled individuals and groups to invest in the future.

In the countries where we have been involved - Mali, DRC, Burundi and Rwanda - we have particularly supported farming families in their quest for food sovereignty. Nearly 250 farmers' organisations and cooperatives have been set up thanks to this programme, enabling thousands of farmers to come together to produce, market and prosper together. In some cooperatives, members' shares have increased dramatically, from an average of \$4 to \$400, reflecting the direct economic impact of these initiatives. Despite these positive results, challenges have emerged, including difficulties in accessing markets for some farmers' organisations, which have required innovative and appropriate solutions.

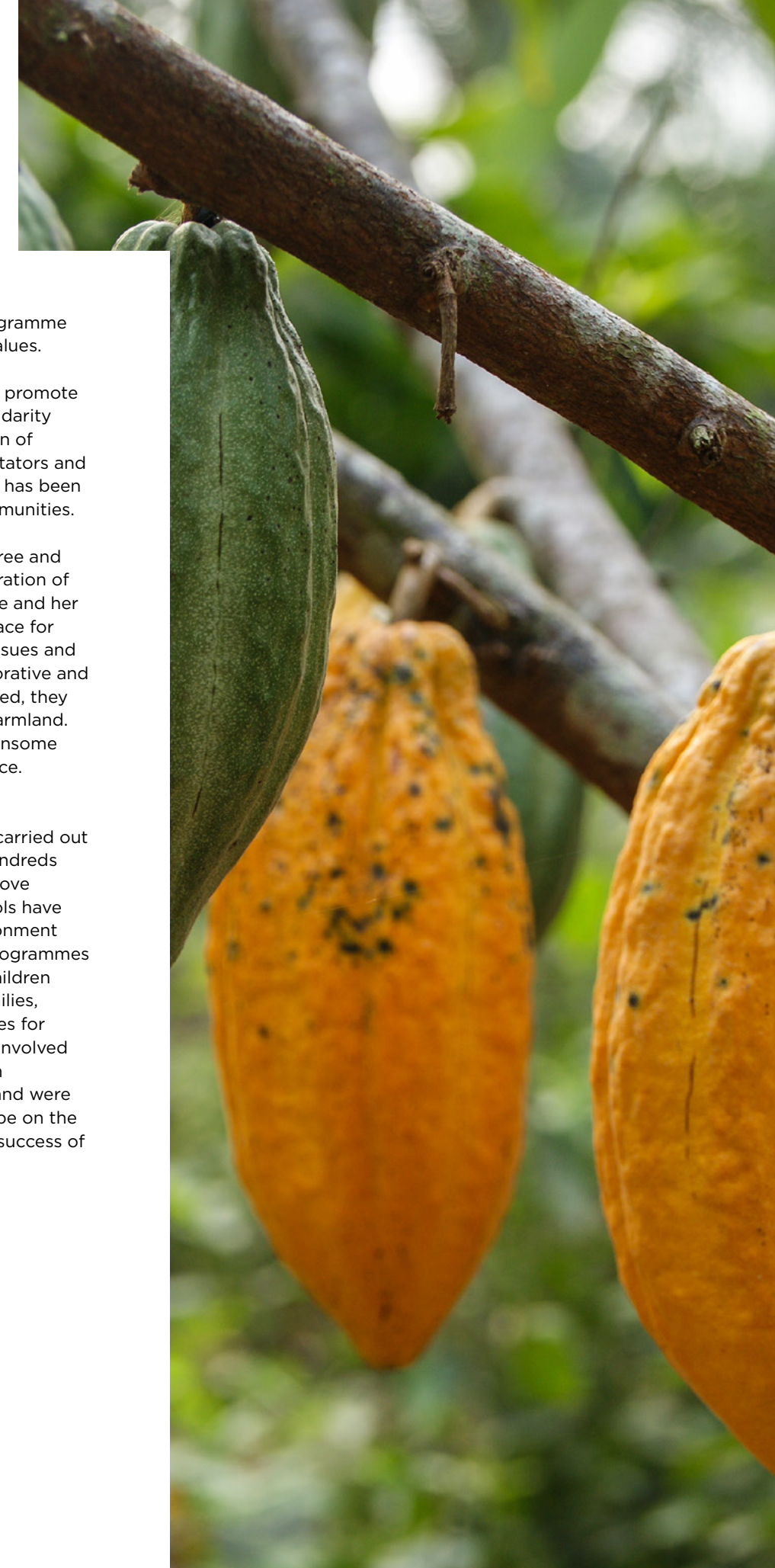
Uniting around shared values

Beyond its economic impact, the programme has reinforced fundamental human values. Regardless of differences in religion, community or status, it has helped to promote a way of living together based on solidarity and dignity. Thanks to the intervention of qualified local staff, in particular facilitators and psychologists, lasting social cohesion has been cultivated within the beneficiary communities.

The story of Chantale, a mother of three and a farmer in Rwanda, is a perfect illustration of this impact. By joining the project, she and her husband wanted to make use of a space for dialogue to resolve their household issues and envision a new start in a more collaborative and participative way. The family succeeded, they acquired a cow and expanded their farmland. They are now sharing the most burdensome tasks and finance their health insurance.

Education: a gateway to the future

In the field of education, the actions carried out in Laos and Rwanda have enabled hundreds of children and young people to improve their schooling conditions. Two schools have been built, providing a modern environment conducive to learning. Educational programmes have been set up to support street children and children from disadvantaged families, guaranteeing them equal opportunities for success. The parents, who were fully involved at every stage, played a crucial role in ensuring that the projects took root and were sustainable. Today, the smiles and hope on the children's faces are testament to the success of these educational initiatives.



Sustainable cocoa production in the DRC

Sustainable transformation and capitalisation of experience



Apprentice chef in Laos

Vocational training: towards autonomy

In the field of vocational training, thousands of young people in Laos, Rwanda and the DRC have gained access to opportunities that will enable them to get a job and make a decent living from their work. One of the major achievements was the opening of a new vocational training centre in Rwanda, officially recognised by the government. In Laos, young women and men trained in catering now work in reputable establishments, enhancing their skills and contributing to their financial independence. At the same time, the programme has encouraged young people to develop entrepreneurial initiatives, opening up new economic prospects in their communities.



Awareness-raising through theatre in Rwanda

Capitalising on and sharing knowledge: a network to amplify impact

One of the major pillars of the 2020-2024 programme has been the capitalisation and sharing of knowledge, a key area for strengthening the collective impact of the actions undertaken. Through a solid network of local partner NGOs, Secodev has encouraged the exchange of experience, good practice and innovation between players in the field. This network has created a collaborative dynamic in which each partner benefits from the successes and lessons learned by the others. By encouraging the pooling of knowledge, Secodev has also helped to professionalise these local structures, enabling them to respond more effectively to the complex challenges they face. Thematic workshops, training courses and forums for collective reflection have been organised to explore issues such as resource management, adaptation to climate change and social inclusion. This work also ensures that successful initiatives can be replicated in other contexts, creating a multiplier effect for sustainable development in the regions concerned. The strategic support provided to our partners throughout their programme is clearly seen as an added value.

A balance sheet full of hope

This programme has not only changed lives: it has sown the seeds of a fairer, more resilient and sustainable future. In five years, it has proved that together, with the values of solidarity and perseverance, it is possible to meet the most complex challenges and build a world where everyone can live with dignity.

Building on these achievements, Secodev aims to reinforce these actions in the coming years, by deepening its gender equality initiatives and innovating to meet the growing climatic and economic challenges.



My name is Éric, and I live in the commune of Rugombo, in Burundi, with my father and five brothers and sisters. Facing cancer ultimately led to the amputation of my leg, which was not easy. When the project came to us, my family and I were identified because of our vulnerability. That's when everything started to change.

Today, I'm part of a Farmers' Organisation (FO) and actively participate in its activities. Even with my disability, I work like everyone else, and that's something I'm very proud of. For example, thanks to our collective work, we managed to produce a seed multiplier field of 8,800 kg. I received 100 kg, which I'll be able to use again to sow and eat if I need to.

With the credit from the farmer' organisations, I was able to buy a small plot of land. On this plot, I'm already growing crops, and there are also trees that I plan to use to build my house. My dream is really to have my own house.

I've also started a small business: I make banana wine. This allows me to generate a bit of income, and soon I plan to start breeding small animals. It's a new step that I can't wait to take. I'm proud to be making progress on my own without depending on my family.

The accounts

The organisation's financial situation is healthy, with balanced accounts for more than five years. Rigorous management has been the watchword of the 2020-2024 action plan. According to the Label Zewo cost calculation, 85% of the organisation's resources were devoted to the programme, 10% to administrative costs and 5% to fundraising.

In terms of operating income, there is a 15% increase between 2023 and 2024, mainly due to disbursements from certain donors for 2025. In 2024, there is also a 17% increase in operating expenses compared with 2023, mainly linked to the launch of activities in India and two new projects in Rwanda and Burundi.

Secodev is proud to be able to count on a range of supporters, both private and public, who are convinced of the quality and validity of its programmes. Currently, almost 63% of its funding comes from public sources, while 37% comes from private sources.

Balance sheet as of 31 December 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
Current assets		
Cash	975'205	913'610
Accruals and deferred income	35'784	1'136
Total current assets	1'010'989	914'746
Fixed assets		
Tangible capital assets	-	-
Total fixed assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	1'010'989	914'746

LIABILITIES	2024	2023
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	1'437	1'561
Social and tax creditors	10'249	13'446
Accruals and deferred liabilities	61'192	26'938
Total current liabilities	72'877	41'945
Long-term foreign capital		
Long-term loan	-	-
Total long-term foreign capital	-	-
Allocated funds		
Allocated funds "Laos program"	96'453	95'534
Allocated funds "India program"	34'684	-
Allocated funds "Rwanda education"	-	2'176
Allocated funds "Rwanda ex-prisoners"	-	6'313
Allocated funds "RDC gender"	64'850	26'447
Allocated funds "RDC forestry"	-	71
Allocated funds "FGC"	3'332	107'331
Alloc. funds "Rwanda vocational training"	30'000	-
Allocated funds "Burundi agroecology"	10'000	-
Allocated funds "Development"	61'818	-
Total allocated funds	301'137	237'872
Organisation capital		
Capital	10'000	10'000
Reserve for unrestricted financing	546'000	546'000
Deferred profit or loss	78'929	74'617
Year end result	2'046	4'312
Total equity	636'975	634'929
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1'010'989	914'746



The financial statements are drawn up in accordance with the Swiss Gaap RPC 21 standard. The distribution of charges uses the Zewo accounting practice.

Income statement on 31 December 2024

OPERATING INCOME	2024	2023
Allocated financing		
FGC funding	950'000	950'000
Foundations	355'483	314'527
Private donors	144'234	-
Non-allocated financing		
ECR funding	16'400	17'450
Non-allocated donation	45'000	35'000
Donations	50	1'000
Contributions	750	600
Other income	2'609	627
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1'514'527	1'319'204

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2024	2023
Direct expenses for projects and activities		
Mali	19'371	55'267
Democratic Republic of the Congo	444'863	488'557
Rwanda	338'475	212'197
Burundi	118'269	74'528
India	62'550	-
Laos	60'535	63'857
Sub-total of program expenditure	1'044'064	894'406
Personnel costs – field support	124'723	128'917
Follow-up project costs, mission field support costs	17'048	17'495
Project expenses outside of the action plan	64'930	-
Total direct costs related to projects and activities	1'250'764	1'040'818
Other operating expenses		
Administrative and technology costs		
Personnel costs	74'834	77'350
Administrative expenses	64'994	51'448
Total administrative and technology costs	139'828	128'798
Personnel costs	49'889	51'567
Promotion and fundraising expenses	7'267	17'755
Total promotion and fundraising expenses	57'156	69'321
Finance costs	666	644
Interest income	-198	-353
Other expenses outside the period	1'000	-
Total other operating costs	198'452	198'410
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	1'449'216	1'239'228

NET RESULTS BEFORE ALLOCATED FUND ADJUSTMENTS		
Apportionment to allocated funds	-1'449'717	-1'264'527
Use of allocated funds	1'386'453	1'188'862
Dissolution of allocated funds	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN ALLOCATED FUNDS	-63'264	-75'665

NET RESULT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	2'046	4'312
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Secodev in 2024

Secretariat (as of 31 December)

Anne Simon	Director
Leny Mora-Monteros	Programme Manager
Lisa Sydow	Communications and projects

Committee (as of 31 December)

Michel Warynski	President
Théogène Gakuba	Vice-President
Philippe Frésard	Treasurer
Carole Dromer	Member
Sylvie Manzini	Member
Martyna Olivet	Member
Ugo Panizza	Member
Laure Speziali	Member

Secodev warmly thanks them for their support and generosity:

- Fondation Smartpeace
- Fondation Temperatio
- Geneva cooperation federation (FGC)
- Department of Development Cooperation (DDC)
- State of Geneva
- City of Geneva
- Town of Carouge
- Geneva communes
- Caritas Geneva
- Caritas Geneva foundation
- Roman Catholic Church (RCC)
- Audemars Piguet foundation
- Migros development funds
- Gertrude Hirzel foundation
- Geneva industrial services (SIG)
- Miva Suisse
- As well as the many private donors

Team, donors and thanks





SECODEV
COOPÉRATION AU DÉVELOPPEMENT

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Donation Secodev

Thank you for your trust
and support!

