



Annual Report 2025



SECODEV
COOPÉRATION AU DÉVELOPPEMENT



**SECODEV supports
smallholder farming
families, women, and
young people across
the Global South,
empowering them to
become the drivers of
change for the future.**

*Young Rwandan woman who completed
vocational training in food preparation*

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Message from the President & the Director



Continuing to Act in a Changing World

It is impossible to open these lines without mentioning one defining fact: in 2025, official development assistance experienced an unprecedented contraction at global level. This sharp fall in funding sends a troubling signal: priorities are being redefined, balances are shifting. Yet on the ground, one reality persists, unyielding: needs are not diminishing. Suffering, on the contrary, is intensifying.

It is precisely in this context that the commitment of our partners in Switzerland — the Communes, the City and Canton of Geneva, the SDC, the FGC, as well as private foundations and individual donors — takes on its full meaning and value. Their loyalty, their generosity and their trust remind us that solidarity is not an abstract ideal: it is a concrete choice, renewed each day, in favour of the most vulnerable populations.

For SECODEV, 2025 is a pivotal year. The launch of our 2025–2032 strategy and our 2025–2028 programme lays the foundations for a new chapter, firmly rooted in our core mission: to combat poverty and to stand alongside those the world too often leaves behind.

True to our field-based approach, we have continued to strengthen our local partners, who are essential actors of sustainable change. Four new partners joined SECODEV this year. Far more than beneficiaries, they are co-builders: supported in strengthening their capacities, they amplify the impact of activities at the very heart of their communities.

The results of this year are encouraging. Despite the scarcity of resources and growing demands, the commitment of our teams, our partners and our supporters is consolidating. Our determination remains intact.

We also wish to mention an institutional transition for our organisation: in 2026, Anne Simon, Director for seven years, will hand over to Mr Leny Mora-Monteros. This handover, prepared with care and in a spirit of continuity, reflects the solidity of our organisation and its capacity to look to the future with confidence. In keeping with her commitment, Anne Simon will join the SECODEV Board.

In an uncertain world, our compass remains the same: to act, with constancy and humility, alongside those who need it most.

To all our partners and donors: a heartfelt thank you for your commitment and support!

Michel Warynski
President

Anne Simon
Director

Results

2025 in figures



94 enterprises
joined the network of partners



24'200 people
(of whom 14'200 women) improved their living conditions



1'400 children and young people
(of whom 750 girls) improved their schooling conditions



59 %
of project beneficiaries are women



3'200 people
(of whom 1'800 women) adopted agroecological practices



136 farmer organisations
were supported

CHF 1'042'304 were invested in the field
out of a total budget of CHF 1'280'177

Recognised as a public-benefit organisation for more than 50 years, SECODEV is a non-governmental organisation whose mission is to combat poverty in a sustainable manner, where it traditionally takes root most deeply: in isolated regions, among populations facing severe economic and social vulnerabilities.

Through its programme Empowering Communities for Change, SECODEV strengthens the economic and social capacities of local communities to sustainably improve their incomes and living conditions. The organisation works primarily with vulnerable households (including single-parent families), women and young people, opening concrete perspectives for them: training, skills development and income-generating activities.

SECODEV's strength lies in its deep local embeddedness. The organisation works exclusively with partners rooted in their territories, fully conversant with the social, cultural and economic realities of their communities. These partners are not mere implementers: they are agents of change, engaged in a logic of subsidiarity and shared responsibility.

In this spirit, SECODEV has developed recognised expertise in supporting its partners, strengthening their organisational, technical and methodological capacities. The objective is clear: to consolidate their autonomy and ensure that the initiatives undertaken endure well beyond the organisation's involvement.

SECODEV places participation at the heart of its action. Communities are involved at every stage of projects, from the identification of needs through to the evaluation of results. The organisation also works to promote equality, in particular gender equality, and respect for human rights, with particular attention to the most marginalised: widows, widowers, children, young people, single mothers and persons with disabilities, who are too often excluded from economic dynamics.

By strengthening both individuals and local organisations, SECODEV enables the populations it supports to become the true agents of their own future and to sustainably transform their environment.



Beneficiaries of the project in Burundi

A portrait...



Countries where we operate

Democratic Republic of Congo

1'250 people, of whom 600 women acquired knowledge and skills in agroecology.



Burundi

51 km of contour lines and anti-erosion protection structures were put in place.



Rwanda

A seed multiplication centre, a vermicomposting centre and a demonstration farm were opened.



India

39 enterprises committed as project partners.



Laos

1'300 children and young people, of whom 700 girls benefited from emergency accommodation and were reintegrated into the school system.





News from Switzerland

In a context marked by a dangerous retreat in international solidarity, SECODEV chose, in 2025, to actively strengthen its presence in Switzerland. Rather than accepting the sector's turbulences passively, the organisation invested in dialogue, collaboration and collective intelligence to consolidate its network and prepare for the future.

It is in this spirit that exchanges within the ECC-Alliance, co-founded by SECODEV in 2023 with two other French-speaking Swiss organisations, took on particular importance. Despite the absence of SDC funding, member organisations deliberately chose to maintain this dynamic, convinced of the irreplaceable value of experience-sharing and collective reflection. From these exchanges emerged concrete avenues for innovation and adaptation, valuable in a sector undergoing deep transformation.

SECODEV's engagement also extended to the world of ideas. The organisation's Director took part in a webinar of the Platform for Food Sovereignty, devoted to the theme "Food Sovereignty: how to resist the climate crisis". A participation that reflects SECODEV's determination to contribute actively to debates shaping the future of international cooperation, and to share its approaches with actors across the sector.

On the policy front, the announcement of budget cuts by the Fédération genevoise de coopération (FGC), following the SDC's decisions, led SECODEV to mobilise alongside member organisations. Together, they conveyed a clear message: these reductions have concrete consequences on the ground, and strong, stable and lasting support for development cooperation remains indispensable.

In this shifting landscape, SECODEV asserts itself as a resolute and clear-eyed actor. Convinced that international cooperation must reinvent itself to remain relevant, the organisation advocates a vision founded on balanced partnerships, the strengthening of local capacities and the empowerment of communities. It regards spaces for exchange and collective reflection in Switzerland not as a luxury, but as an essential lever for generating innovative and sustainable responses to today's challenges.

Regional knowledge-sharing workshop in Rwanda

From 19 to 22 November 2025, SECODEV brought together nine African partner organisations in Kibuye, Rwanda, for its biennial knowledge-sharing workshop. More than a meeting, this event embodies a founding conviction of the organisation: the most sustainable solutions arise from peer dialogue, the exchange of experiences and trust built over time.

Two themes structured the exchanges, as complementary as they are urgent: mental health and the empowerment of smallholder farming families. Discussions highlighted a finding that the field confirms every day: economic precarity and psychological fragility feed one another, forming a vicious cycle that exhausts families and hampers all sustainable progress. Psychologists and social workers shared their methods, their successes and their obstacles in the face of often invisible realities: depression, isolation, anxiety. These exchanges opened the way for a collective awareness and for the integration of psychosocial approaches into development projects. This represents a significant step forward for partners wishing to act on issues that have too long been neglected.

The workshop also extended beyond the conference room, during a particularly rich field visit. Participants discovered a demonstration farm illustrating agroecological practices adapted to the local context, fostering mutual learning between agricultural technicians and producers. But it was perhaps the direct encounter with beneficiary families that left the deepest impression: concrete testimonies of transformed lives: rising incomes, access to education, diversified activities, improved living conditions.

By facilitating these spaces for exchange and building lasting ties between partners from different countries, SECODEV confirms its role as a catalyst. The Kibuye workshop is not an isolated event: it is a stage in the construction of a living network, capable of pooling knowledge, innovating collectively and amplifying each partner's impact in the service of the most vulnerable communities.

SECODEV warmly thanks all participants of this workshop.

Regional knowledge-sharing workshop in Rwanda





Young graduate of the agroecological training centre in Rwanda

Launch of the 2025 – 2028 programme

Young people in hospitality and catering training in Laos



2025 – 2028: A new programme to transform lives, at scale

In 2025, SECODEV took a decisive step with the launch of its strategic programme 2025 – 2028. Building on the continuity of its commitments, this multi-country programme marks a scaling-up of the organisation: greater ambition, greater coherence, and a clear vision: to accompany the most vulnerable populations in their own development dynamics, to reduce poverty and inequalities in a lasting manner.

Placing vulnerable people at the heart of action

The programme targets first and foremost those whom economic and social systems too often leave out: women, single mothers, young people, children and persons with disabilities. The stake is concrete: to sustainably improve their living conditions by increasing and diversifying their incomes, opening access to vocational training and strengthening their economic and social inclusion.

To achieve this, the programme articulates several complementary levers. The development of economic activities, notably value chains, and skills strengthening enable households to reduce their vulnerability and build their autonomy. Agroecology and food sovereignty secure production, strengthen agricultural resilience and generate marketable surpluses. Vocational training for young people, in turn, opens doors to employment and sustainable income-generating activities.

But the programme goes beyond the economic dimension alone. It acts on relational dynamics within households and communities, fostering dialogue, shared decision-making and the reduction of family tensions. Specific attention is also given to mental health, so as to better address situations of stress, anxiety and psychosocial vulnerability, and to build lasting resilience within families.

Five countries, one shared vision

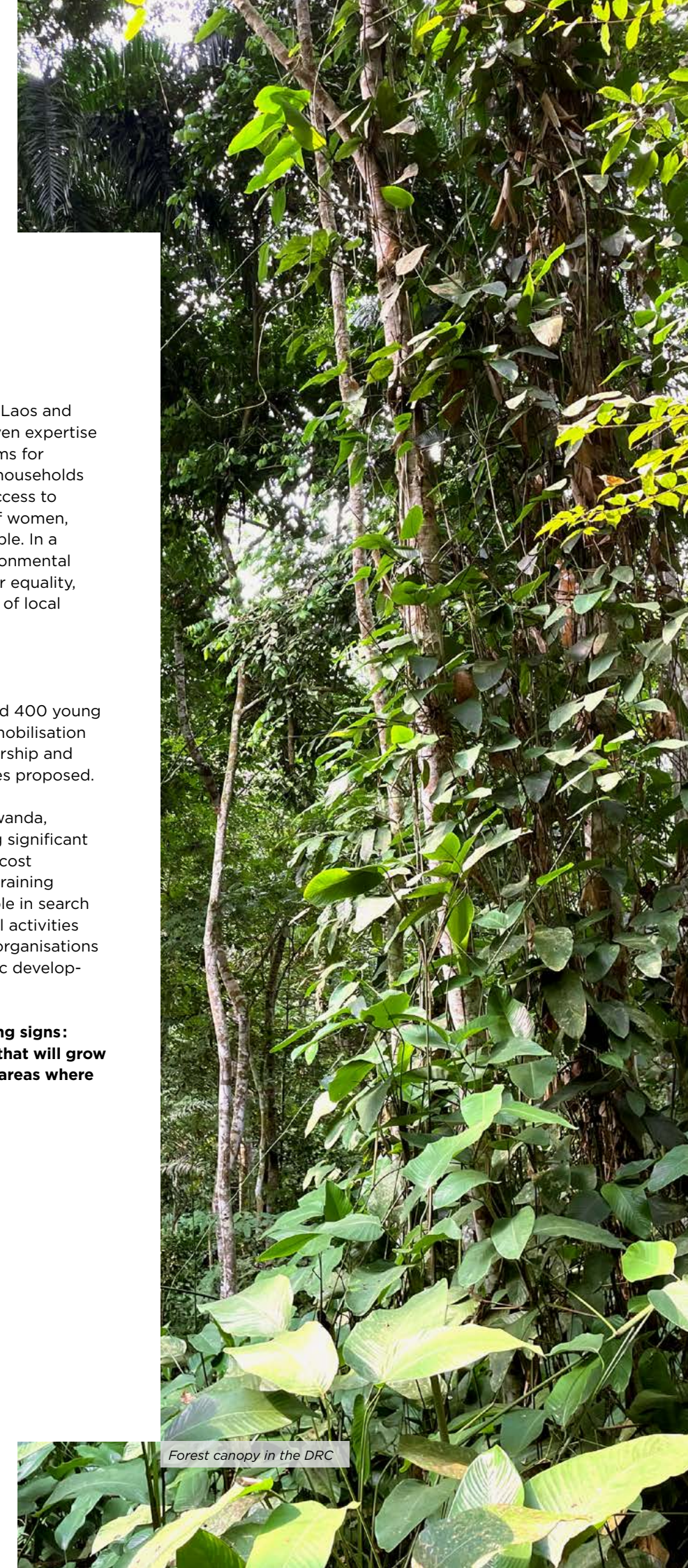
Deployed in the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Laos and India, the programme builds on the proven expertise of SECODEV and its local partners. It aims for tangible transformations at the level of households and communities: improved incomes, access to education for children, empowerment of women, creation of opportunities for young people. In a cross-cutting manner, it integrates environmental protection, climate resilience and gender equality, whilst contributing to the strengthening of local civil society.

A first year that sets the tone

From 2025, nearly 3'000 households and 400 young people joined the programme. A rapid mobilisation that testifies to strong community ownership and confirms the relevance of the approaches proposed.

The first results are already visible. In Rwanda, savings and credit groups are mobilising significant resources and facilitating access to low-cost financing. In India and Laos, vocational training centres are attracting many young people in search of a sustainable future. In the DRC, initial activities have enabled the structuring of farmer organisations that are fully committed to the economic development of their communities.

These results are not merely encouraging signs: they point to transformation dynamics that will grow stronger, year after year, in each of the areas where the programme operates.



Forest canopy in the DRC

Focus: the PIA approach



A Rwandan widow presenting her family action plan in front of her rehabilitated home

The PIA approach: when families become architects of their own future

The PIA approach (Plan Intégré pour l'Autopromotion) was not conceived in an office. It is the fruit of extensive fieldwork, co-developed by SECODEV and its Burundian partner OAP since 2020, built on lived experiences, shared learning and a common conviction: conventional approaches to poverty reduction have their limits, and there are alternative ways to create lasting change.

Placing families at the centre of their own development

The PIA approach is firmly rooted in participation. In contexts marked by poverty, isolation and uncertainty, it offers households something essential: the ability to regain control over their future.



A single-parent family in Burundi with their cow

Each family begins with a collective self-assessment, involving all members—women, men and young people—in reflection, planning and action. Together, they develop a shared three-year vision tailored to their reality and built on their existing strengths and resources.

This process profoundly transforms relationships within households. Families communicate more openly, responsibilities are shared more equitably, and tensions decrease. Currently implemented in Burundi and Rwanda, the PIA approach has demonstrated particularly strong results in strengthening family cohesion and improving household relationships.

Measurable economic and social transformations

The economic results are equally significant. The adoption of agroecological practices has led to yield increases of up to 60% for some crops and more than 90% for others. Diversified production and the development of income-generating activities have resulted in an average income increase of 62%, with some households substantially multiplying their earnings.

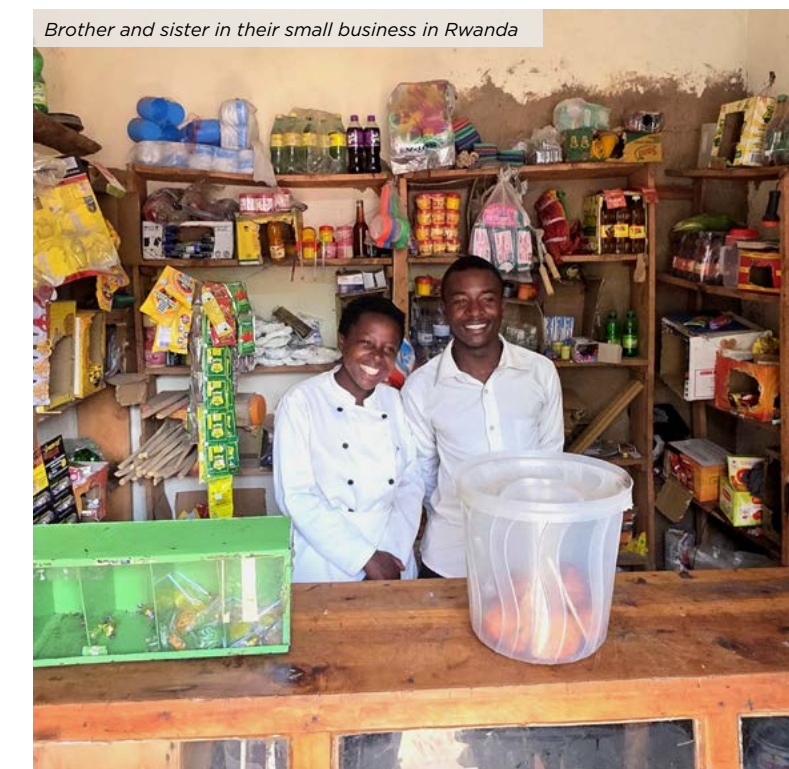
Cooperatives play a central role in this process. They provide a structured framework that supports families from self-assessment through to implementation of their action plans, while fostering collective learning, trust and solidarity.

The cooperatives themselves are transformed along the way, with stronger governance, collective economic initiatives and wider dissemination of good practices within communities. As a result, the impact extends far beyond the households directly involved.

An approach to expand, an ambition to scale up

More than a programme, PIA is a living, co-created methodology that has been tested in the field and embraced by all of SECODEV's partners, who have expressed a strong commitment to adopting it. Today, it has demonstrated its effectiveness in generating sustainable economic, social and human development outcomes.

SECODEV is now seeking the co-financing required to expand the PIA approach across its projects and adapt it to different local contexts. This ambition reflects both the results already achieved and the hope that the approach has brought to hundreds of families.



Brother and sister in their small business in Rwanda

Before joining the project, Jean-Claude had to buy flour at the market to feed his family. Today, the situation is radically different. Together, they produce 120 kg of maize for their own consumption, grow beans which they carefully divide between seed stock, household food and sale, and sell aubergines every week at the local market.

The income generated, combined with carefully planned savings, has enabled them to acquire assets that would have seemed out of reach just a few years ago: a goat, a pig, a cow and, most importantly, their daughter's schooling. Then came the improvement of their home. Jean-Claude recalls: *"Before, if it rained at night, the whole household had to get up and take shelter from the rain. Now, we are protected."*

Behind this transformation lie the core principles of the PIA approach: agricultural diversification, equitable sharing of responsibilities within the household and efficient use of family resources. Simple principles, applied with consistency and transforming lives.

Financial statements

Financial management 2025: rigour and stability in a challenging context

The 2025 financial year took place in a pressured environment, marked by a global decline in funding and increased caution amongst donors. In the face of this context, SECODEV maintained rigorous management, controlling its expenditure and anticipating risks to preserve the stability and quality of its activities.

The result speaks for itself: according to the Zewo label cost calculation, 82% of the organisation's resources were devoted to programmes, 13% to administrative costs and 5% to fundraising.

Operating income recorded a decline of 12% compared to 2024, largely due to advance payments made by certain donors in the previous year. At the same time, operating expenditure decreased by 11%, reflecting a gradual and controlled start to the new programme 2025–2028. The net result for the year is slightly negative, with a contained loss of CHF 6'454. A limited variance that testifies to the solidity of the organisation's management in a particularly demanding global context.

In this uncertain landscape, SECODEV can rely on the loyalty of its private and public partners, convinced of the relevance and quality of its programmes. This valued support remains the foundation on which the organisation continues to build its work.

The full audited annual accounts are available on the SECODEV website.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

ASSETS	2025	2024
Current assets		
Cash	1'053'382	975'205
Prepayments and accrued income	4'359	35'784
Total current assets	1'057'741	1'010'989
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	-	-
Total fixed assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	1'057'741	1'010'989

LIABILITIES	2025	2024
Short-term liabilities		
Creditors	350	1'437
Social and tax creditors	22'456	10'249
Accrued liabilities and deferred income	49'917	61'192
Total short-term liabilities	72'723	72'877
Total long-term liabilities	-	-
Restricted funds		
Restricted fund "Laos Programme"	105'508	96'453
Restricted fund "India Programme"	71'679	34'684
Restricted fund "DRC Gender"	25'424	64'850
Restricted fund "DRC Forestry"	-	-
Restricted fund "FGC"	85'068	3'332
Restricted fund "Rwanda Vocational Training"	5'000	30'000
Restricted fund "Burundi Agroecology"	-	10'000
Restricted fund "Rwanda Agroecology"	-	-
Total restricted funds	292'679	239'319
Organisation's equity		
Capital	10'000	10'000
Restricted capital "Development"	61'818	61'818
Unrestricted financing reserve	546'000	546'000
Retained earnings	80'975	78'929
Net result for the year	-6'454	2'046
Total equity	692'339	698'793
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	1'057'741	1'010'989



The accounts are prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21. The allocation of costs is carried out using the Zewo accounting method.

Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2025

OPERATING INCOME	2025	2024
Restricted funding		
FGC	944'838	950'000
Foundations	246'500	355'483
Private donations	5'000	144'234
Unrestricted funding		
ECR Funding	16'400	16'400
Unrestricted donations	112'711	45'000
Donations	1'151	50
Membership fees	600	750
Other income	368	2'609
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1'327'568	1'514'527

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2025	2024
Direct project and activity costs		
Mali	-797	19'371
Democratic Republic of Congo	358'577	444'863
Rwanda	297'470	338'475
Burundi	140'464	118'269
India	41'550	62'550
Laos	47'895	60'535
Sub-total field expenditure for programmes	885'161	1'044'064
Staff costs — field support	139'330	124'723
Project monitoring and field mission costs	17'813	17'048
Project costs outside the action plan	-	64'930
Total direct project and activity costs	1'042'304	1'250'764
Other operating costs		
Staff costs	83'598	74'834
Administrative costs	87'797	64'994
Total administrative and IT costs	171'395	139'828
Staff costs	55'731	49'889
Fundraising and communications costs	10'746	7'267
Total fundraising and communications costs	66'478	57'156
Total other operating costs	237'873	196'984
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	1'280'177	1'447'748

OPERATING RESULT	2025	2024
Finance charges	485	666
Interest income	-	-198
Non-recurring items	-	1'000
TOTAL FINANCIAL, EXCEPTIONAL AND PRIOR PERIOD ITEMS	485	1'468

NET RESULT BEFORE RESTRICTED FUND MOVEMENTS	2025	2024
Allocation to restricted funds	-1'196'338	-1'449'717
Utilisation of restricted funds	1'142'978	1'386'453
Release of restricted funds	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED FUNDS	-53'360	-63'264

NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	2025	2024
	-6'454	2'046

SECODEV in 2025

Secretariat (as at 31 December)

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

Committee (as at 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 Spezialì	Member

SECODEV warmly thanks the following for their support and generosity:

- Fondation Smartpeace
- Fondation Temperatio
- Fédération genevoise de coopération (FGC)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Canton of Geneva
- City of Geneva
- Municipality of Carouge
- Geneva Communes
- Caritas Geneva
- Fondation Caritas Genève
- Roman Catholic Church (ECR)
- Audemars Piguet Foundation
- Migros Development Fund
- Fondation Gertrude Hirzel
- Services industriels de Genève (SIG)
- Miva Suisse
- And the many individual donors

Team,
funders & thanks





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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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Thank you for your trust
and support!

