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25



kiyo

EMPOWERING YOUTH TOGETHER

“

**KIYO's support is a transformative investment in the future of youth, empowering them with essential life skills.**

*-Jessabel Pino-Concepcion  
Bidlisiw Foundation Inc.*

2025

kiyo

EMPOWERING YOUTH TOGETHER

# Introduction.

2025 marks the final chapter in the remarkable journey of KIYO – Empowering Youth Together.

For nearly five decades, KIYO has worked with one clear conviction: that young people are experts in their own lives and have the potential to shape a more just and sustainable world when given the opportunity to develop their talents, skills and voice. Together with dedicated partners in Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, DR Congo and the Philippines, KIYO has created learning environments where young people could grow, discover their potential and stand up for their rights.

Over the years, thousands of children and young people have participated in our programmes. Through education, skills training, youth participation and global citizenship initiatives, they have strengthened their confidence, discovered their talents and become active contributors to their communities.

As we present this final annual report, we do so with mixed emotions. There is great pride in what has been achieved: a long and meaningful journey made possible by the dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm of many people. Staff members, volunteers, partners, donors and supporters have all played an essential role in building KIYO into the organisation it has been.

At the same time, there is also a sense of sadness. Ending an organisation with such a rich history and impact is never easy. While this report reflects the activities of 2025, the first half of 2026 will be dedicated to carefully concluding KIYO's programmes and responsibilities. In 2026, KIYO would have celebrated its 50th anniversary – a milestone that reminds us how long and meaningful this journey has been.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this journey. Your commitment, dedication and enthusiasm have helped empower thousands of young people to believe in themselves and to shape their own future.

The work of KIYO may come to an end, but the impact will continue through the young people, communities and partners who will carry these values forward.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



**Jan Truyens**  
*Chair of the Board*

# Table of Contents.

<b>01</b>	Empowering Youth Together.....	6
<b>02</b>	Our Impact.....	8
<b>03</b>	Belgium.....	14
<b>04</b>	Brazil .....	24
<b>05</b>	Burundi.....	32
<b>06</b>	DRCongo.....	40
<b>07</b>	Philippines.....	50
<b>08</b>	Good Governance.....	58
<b>09</b>	Integrity.....	60

# Empowering youth together.

Our starting point has always been simple: talent is universal, but opportunity is not. For than 50 years, KIYO has worked to empower young people who face barriers to education, participation and the labour market. Too often, youth experience discrimination, violence, or a lack of opportunities to make their voices heard.

Throughout our work, KIYO has supported young people in taking charge of their lives, realising their talents and claiming their rights, enabling them to contribute to a more just and sustainable society.

We achieved this by connecting youth across contexts and in strengthening the work of local partners across five countries. Together, we created enabling environments where children and young people could participate and feel physically, socially and emotionally safe, while developing their skills, knowledge and networks.

Through initiatives such as inclusive theatre arts, social circus, youth exchanges and global citizenship programmes, we supported young people in discovering their talents and strengthening their skills. We promoted quality education by helping schools build cultures that respect children's rights and encourage participation. We also worked to expand employment opportunities by supporting young people in developing life and technical skills.

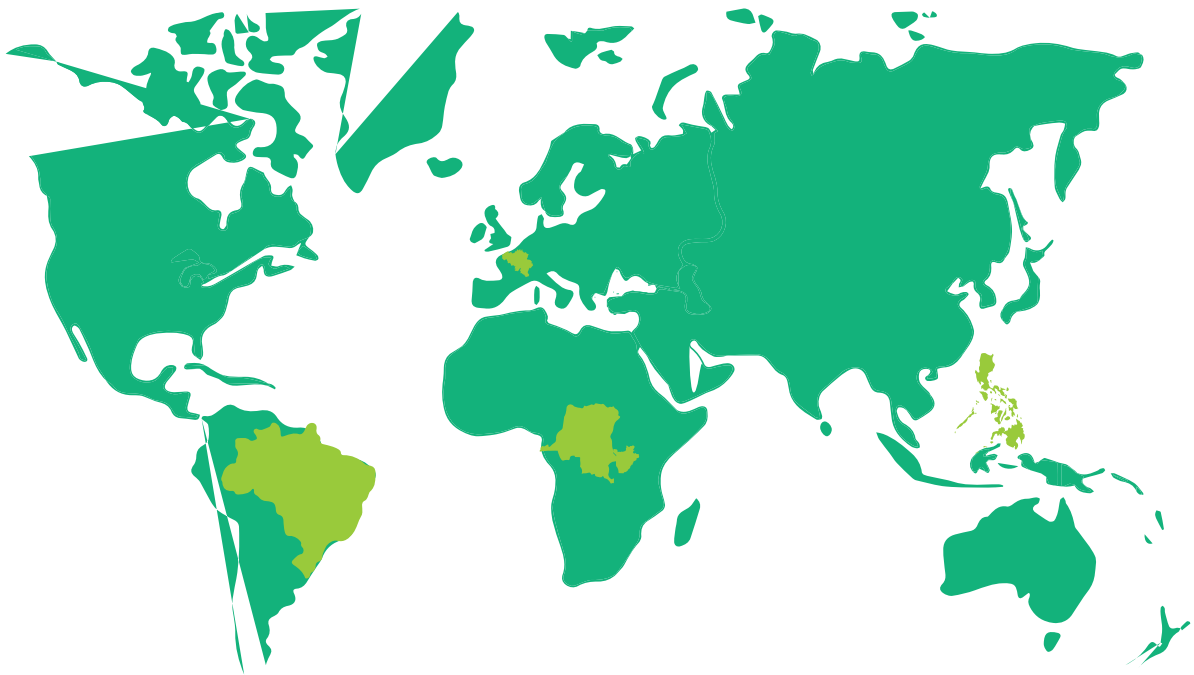
Together with our partners, KIYO has contributed to empowering generations of young people to become active citizens and agents of change in their communities.





# Our Impact.

KIYO has focused on empowering children and youth, guided by strong belief in their potential as active agents of change. Young people are experts in their own lives and experiences. Through our work, we placed them in the driver's seat and support them in shaping a better future for themselves and their communities. Together with our teams and partners in Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, DR Congo and the Philippines, we worked to create environments where young people can grow, participate and lead change.



**From 2022 to 2025**



**108**  
**schools**

were directly supported by our programmes

**18.667**  
**children & youth**



were directly supported by our programmes



**269**

**youth structures**

were directly supported by our programmes

**60%**  
**of youth involved**



in our project are girls



**5502**

**social media followers**

Aqui tem C



De  
SI

kiyo



Belgium  
partner in dev



CIRCO SOCIAL

desde 1991

ER



m  
elopment

DKA Austria  
Hilfswerk der Katholischen Kirche

MISERERE  
LFS









# Belgium

KIYO continued to work on youth empowerment both inside and outside the school context.

With schools, we applied a school wide approach that engages students and teachers in strengthening global citizenship and their role in society.

In doing so, KIYO contributes to creating learning environments where young people can develop their talents and act as agents of social change.

Outside the school context, KIYO supported 4th pillar and youth organisations in creating an enabling environment for the empowerment of children and youth.



**BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE ROOM.**

- Turn off the lights
- Close all windows
- Put your glasses and cups into the dish washer in the Kitchen

Thank you for your kind cooperation



# Context & Schools.

## Context related to the situation of children's rights and youth empowerment in Belgium

In 2025, we continued our efforts to give young people in Belgium the opportunities and space to actively contribute to and participate in their living environment. We organized exchanges with young people from Burundi and Brazil, collaborated with student councils, and set up talent sessions with various youth groups. In doing so, we were able to build on the active citizenship toolbox developed the previous year, which brings together numerous KIYO methodologies for strengthening citizenship skills among young people.

In a context where resources for international solidarity are under pressure, we consider it all the more important to reach young people who are less likely to come into contact with global citizenship. This is in line with our new strategy developed in 2024, in which we explicitly focus on NEET<sup>1</sup> youth and young people at risk of becoming NEET. In 2025, we already launched several projects with this target group. Initial experiences and lessons learned confirm our belief that targeted, participatory programs with these young people not only increase their involvement, but also strengthen their self-confidence, competencies, and future prospect.

### School for Rights

At the end of 2025, after a process lasting almost two years, the WICO school in Hamont-Achel was awarded the 'School for Rights' label. The school had long been committed to creating a positive and connected school climate, so this process was very much in line with its vision. During the process, many additional initiatives were taken. There was a focus on further strengthening the student council, where students' ideas were put into practice. The student council is now consulted more often, including on policy decisions. A simple online procedure was introduced so that students can report certain rights violations. The student council's communication was refined, and the first steps were taken towards a new vision on diversity. An action plan for the future was drawn up, which will continue to focus on sustainable student participation and communication about this, the development of a policy vision on diversity, and a continued commitment to the realization of children's rights at school. The continuation of the process is therefore assured!

At Sint-Michielscollege in Brasschaat, KIYO is also continuing to work on introducing global citizenship into the school in a structural way. In 2025, the school made a strong commitment to setting up an anti-bullying policy. This school will also be labeled in 2026.

In 2025, Stemstroom in Antwerp was labeled a School for Rights during their annual Global Day. On that day, the school's 60 nationalities were highlighted in a positive way. The stu-

<sup>1</sup> NEET: Not in Education, Employment or Training



Annual Globay Day in 'De Stemstroom' in Antwerpen



Through the School for Rights partnership, KA Geraardsbergen took part in a masterclass in which a group of teachers was coached in five sessions to create a cohesive classroom and school environment. Various themes were discussed, including talents, group dynamics, student participation, non-violent communication, and discussing complex issues. This process enabled the teachers to get to work with this content in a relatively short period of time and to apply it to the entire school context.

dents took part in all kinds of workshops (cooking, henna, dance, etc.) and got to know each other and each other's backgrounds better. This day brought together many of the things that had been worked on during the School for Rights program, including increased student participation, celebrating diversity, and working on connections between students and teachers. The school can be proud of the progress it has made over the past three years. The school radiates its vision of children's rights and global citizenship, and through the Smakelijke School (Tasty School) project, which offers free fruit, soup, and bread to students every week, the school also focuses on healthy nutrition. With this label in hand, future initiatives around global citizenship are also assured.



Masterclass School for Rights in KA Geraardsbergen

## Youth2Youth

In 2025, many young Belgians had the opportunity to meet peers from other contexts through the **Youth2Youth project**. Youth from Brussels exchange twice with participants from Rio de Janeiro. During the first exchange, they shared insights about their respective contexts and the opportunities they see in their countries. In the second exchange, they focused more closely on the challenges such as discrimination and safety in their living environments, and discussed how they could address them. In Antwerp, youth exchanged with young participants from Burundi, focusing on environmental awareness and climate action.



*Connect for Global Change (with Amoukanama) in Tectum - Antwerp*

project. This initiative supports youth with a migrant background in completing their school education. KIYO facilitated sessions with two groups of young people on talents, children's rights, and active citizenship, contributing to their personal empowerment process.

In November, two young people from the Action4Rights were invited to the Belgian Royal

Palace to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Queen Mathilde Fund, managed by the King Baudouin Foundation. One of them even participated in a panel discussion with Her Majesty the Queen, sharing first-hand how the project has shaped her journey and strengthened her voice.

Following the successful 'Circus4Climate' project, KIYO built on one of the key lessons learned in 2025: art can be a powerful tool to engage young people in global citizenship topics. Together with the circus company **Amoukanama**, we worked with young people in Antwerp who are prepared for the labour market to create a circus performance at school. The participants explored themes related to climate change and integrated them into various circus acts under professional guidance. Although many of them started the week feeling uncertain, they gained confidence throughout the process and delivered an impressive final performance that was warmly applauded by students and teachers. In 2025, KIYO also continued its collaboration with the **King Baudouin Foundation** through the Boost



*Session on talents with the youth of the Boost project*



# Youth Structures.

KIYO has completed its projects with various organizations this year.

**SosyalBen**, a Turkey-based youth organization that works with young people who volunteer to organize after-school activities in schools with children. Based on the guidance program and training provided by KIYO trainers, the organization developed an initial series of training sessions on global citizenship for its volunteers and then evaluated them. One of the conclusions was that an important task for the volunteers is to work with children on active and global citizenship and critical thinking; a curriculum that still needs to be developed. They are continuing to work on strengthening the volunteers, including by focusing on experiential learning (giving young people a role within the organization, inviting them to get involved in their own environment), and has also adapted its volunteer policy to this end.

With **Nyemime Akpee Belgium Vzw (NAB)**, a Ghanaian diaspora organization in Brussels with activities in Belgium but also in Ghana, the focus has been on the right to participation and embedding this in activities and organizational culture. A «youth» day was organised around rights and talents discovery.

KIYO also had the opportunity to introduce parts of the **Active Citizenship toolbox**, such as the talent story, to various organizations in their work with their target group and network (Youca, Echo Communication).

At the request of **Globelink**, we worked with them to develop a game called “SpelRegels” (Rules of the Game), which enables youth organizations to examine their operations through a children’s rights lens.

**UCOS** and KIYO continued to work together on integrating a children’s rights lens into international mobility. For both students and accompanying staff in higher education institutions.



Discovery of talents NAB «youth» day

## Henry Obedekah

President - **NAB**

*'I can honestly say that the training sessions have been a learning process for me.*

*The session I enjoyed most was about youth empowerment, creating space for the youth to really get them involved and allow them to feel free to express themselves and allowing them to ownership of their initiatives.*

*NAB is already putting some of the lessons learned into practice.*

*I also enjoyed the practical application of youth workshop. Seeing the youth enthusiastically participating in the different activities of the workshop. I am grateful for KIYO to partner with NAB for this training session.'*



Workshop on Global Citizenship Education with SosyalBen

# 1.860

## Youth reached



51%  
Boys



49%  
Girls



Youca Action Day

2025

# MONDIALE D



Ni wereldburger,  
op deze school tellen jouw  
**rechten!**  
Ni ch  
soo-ke ce  
es

# DAG 2025

Belgium





# Brazil

KIYO works together with local partners to create opportunities for young people living in vulnerable contexts. Together, we support young people in discovering and strengthening their skills, developing their talents and increasing their opportunities for participation, employment and personal development. Through our partnership with **AMAR**, we supported youth from the favelas of Rio de Janeiro in accessing vocational training and improving their chances of finding decent work. Together with our partner **SER**, we contributed to the personal development of young people both inside and outside the school environment through their innovative social circus methodology.

In collaboration with youth-led organisation **YOUCA** Brazil, we also supported young people from diverse background in organising themselves and strengthening their capacities to advocate for youth rights and more inclusive public policies.



# Context & Partners.

## Context

In 2025, Brazil continued to be marked by strong contrasts. While the country experienced economic growth and hosted COP30, extreme social inequalities remain a major challenge. Youth participation in civic and human rights spaces expanded, creating new opportunities for young people to engage in public life.

At the same time, political debates highlighted ongoing tensions around environmental protection and social justice. Congress advanced policies aligned with agribusiness interests (“ruralist” agendas), alongside environmental rollbacks amid rising forest fires, while discussions on fairer taxation unfolded in parallel with concerns about threats to Indigenous rights and socio-environmental protections. Democratic institutions, including the Supremo Tribunal Federal, also continued to face political pressure.

In this context, the situation of children’s rights and youth empowerment reflects both progress and persistent structural challenges. While opportunities for youth participation are growing, many young people still face significant barriers to fully exercising their rights and shaping their future.

## KIYO & partners

In 2025, the MCD<sup>1</sup> and SCD<sup>2</sup> partnerships between KIYO and its partners deepened through joint learning, institutional strengthening, and youth-led initiatives.

With **AMAR**<sup>3</sup>, the partnership contributed to significant organisational development, including management renewal, stronger youth protagonism, and increased trust from local communities. The Fashion Show organised with **YOUCA Brazil**<sup>4</sup> boosted institutional visibility, strengthened team confidence, and introduced new creative methodologies, further reinforcing AMAR’s public recognition. At **SER**<sup>5</sup>, beyond technical exchanges, the partnership also enabled the revitalisation of the reading room and the transformation of the headquarters into an integrated cultural space for youth. The collaboration was also significant in strengthening **integrity practices**, leading to a first joint publication, the institutionalisation of policies and protocols across the three partners, and the publication of their methodologies.

- 
- 1 MCD : Mutual Capacity Development
  - 2 SCD: Shared Capacity Development
  - 3 AMAR: Associação Beneficente Amar
  - 4 YOUCA BRASIL: Youth For Change And Action
  - 5 SER: Se Essa Rua Fosse Minha

In addition, the exit strategy supported SER in obtaining key certifications, reducing operational costs, and consolidating its long-term institutional sustainability.



**Sarah Silva, 33 yrs old**

**SER - Social Assistant**

*'KIYO's financial support and mentorship enabled us to strengthen our institutional integrity practices and build the capacities of our art educators.*

*This collaboration helped integrate ethical and transparent values into our daily work. Beyond funding, KIYO has been a transformative partner, strengthening our professional skills and our ability to create a positive impact in the communities we serve.'*



**Sueny Nogueira, 33 yrs old**

**YOUCA Brasil - Coordinator**

*'The mutual capacity development between KIYO and its partners has strengthened our team and professionals. Through this collaboration, we achieved very positive results in working with young people, particularly in training them in active citizenship and future planning.*

*Last year, we reached the highest number of young people since the programme began. This progress would not have been possible without KIYO's support, and we are deeply grateful for this partnership.'*



# School & Youth Structures.

AMAR collaborated with **seven TVET providers** to offer **156 vocational training courses** for young people in areas such as solar panel installation, rainwater reuse, drone operation, barbering, nail and eyebrow design, box braids, advanced Excel, and web design. Building on its long-standing commitment to youth employability in the Baixada Fluminense, AMAR not only connected young people to technical training but also supported them throughout selection processes, job placement pathways, and partnerships with local businesses. Participants described the experience as transformative: they not only learned a profession and strengthened their socio-economic autonomy, but also developed life skills, professional ethics, and confidence that enabled them to access the labour market and positively impact their families and communities.

SER supported **four public schools** in fostering a school culture that prioritises children's rights, encourages active participation, and embraces diversity. Through its **social circus and arts-based methodology**, SER worked directly within schools to integrate artistic practices into the pedagogical routine, strengthening students' sense of belonging and reducing discrimination. Schools reported that these activities created safe spaces for dialogue and collective reflection, enabling discussions on discrimination against young Afro-Brazilians, gender equality, diversity and inclusion, drug abuse, and climate change. SER also supported **five youth cultural organisations** through exchange meetings and training on rights, diversity, cultural management, and creative professionalisation, expanding opportunities for young artists to access cultural policies and income-generating activities. Through its partnership with KIYO, YOUCA Brasil strengthened **13 youth-led organisations**, supporting young people in developing skills in leadership, internet security, youth rights,



*Fashion Show with Jardim Gramacho's youth*

**Annual Report**

and advocacy. Learning exchanges between these organisations further consolidated their role as agents of change. YOUCA youth were elected as delegates and participated in the **State LGBT Conference**, where they had voice and voting rights to influence public policies. They also took part in the **Black Women's March** and are increasingly present in both formal and informal advocacy spaces.

In addition, young people from Jardim Gramacho proudly created and designed their own sustainable clothing collections together with Dutch fashion designer **Zinzi de Brouwer**. The collections showcased the creativity, confidence and transformation of the participants and were presented during a fashion show, with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Brasilia.



Social Circus Arts by SeEssaRuaONG



Lina Ferreira

SER and NYAB Youth

2.103

Youth reached



38%  
Boys

1% Non-bi-  
nary



61%  
Girls



“ The SER project has been truly wonderful in my life. It has genuinely transformed me, because in this world it is very difficult for transgender people when it comes to institutions and job opportunities.

I was always looking for circus spaces and other places to train, for theatre and dance. But I couldn't feel comfortable expressing myself and truly being who I am. SER gave me that. I am truly amazed by this experience, by everything I have lived through there. ”



*Daniel Assis, 20 yrs old*

*YOUCA youth and AMAR*

*“Through the project, I had the opportunity to take an Excel course at AMAR, with the support of YOUCA, and it couldn’t have come at a better time. At that time, I was employed as a young apprentice thanks to YOUCA. In fact, they helped me throughout the selection process – they shared the job opening, covered my transportation costs to attend the selection process, helped me apply, and I successfully passed and secured the job.*

*That’s what YOUCA does – it helps young people fill spaces, whether in the job market or in other areas. YOUCA builds bridges between young people and spaces that youth from the Baixada Fluminense often do not have access to. It creates connections between young people and opportunities.*

*I am very grateful to YOUCA for building one of those bridges for me. ”*







# Burundi

In Burundi, KIYO collaborated with its partners BIRATURABA, and Spring Communities to strengthen school structures that promote student participation and empowerment.

At the same time, together with FVS–Amie des Enfants and BIRATURABA, KIYO focused on the economic empowerment of young people through the establishment of community-based savings and loan groups.



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POWERING YOUTH TOGETHER



# Context & Partners.

## Context

Politically, the year was marked by an electoral period, with risks of youth being exposed to political instrumentalization. However, the community structures created by the program (school clubs, SILC groups) provided safe spaces where youth could reflect, debate and develop critical thinking through citizenship education.

Economically, many families in Burundi continued to face socio-economic vulnerability, increasing the risk of school dropout. At the same time, stronger collaboration with school's authorities, local authorities and parents was observed, with growing recognition of the value of community structures and school clubs supporting youth participation and engagement.

## KIYO & partners

Mutual capacity development between KIYO and its partners strengthened the way youth are supported and engaged. Through this partnership, several practical tools and policies were developed and shared. For example, Spring Communities introduced an "Equality Notebook", allowing students to document their observations and reflections on how gender equality is addressed during activities.

On environmental issues, two interactive tools were introduced: the "3C Climate Cards" and the manual "My Planet, My Responsibility", encouraging youth (students) to explore environmental challenges through dialogue, reflection and collective learning connected to their local realities.

At the institutional level, KIYO developed and shared two facilitation guides with partners—one focusing

on youth empowerment and another on gender.

In addition, the partner Biraturaba strengthened its integrity framework by establishing a complaints management mechanism and a code of ethics. Overall, local partners are increasingly demonstrating stronger capacities in financial management, activity monitoring and resource mobilisation.



Japhet (left) membre du SILC GATOKARAKU-RA



### Gloria Uruna

#### Biraturaba - National Coordinator

*'Our collaboration with KIYO became a real process of strategic reflection and institutional strengthening. Beyond simple programmatic support, the partnership encouraged our organization and team to question, refine, and sometimes rethink our understanding of youth empowerment.'*

*The learning gained through this collaboration now forms a strong foundation that will guide the organization's future work in promoting youth empowerment.'*

### Hervé Burakeye

#### Spring Communities - Administrative and Finance Manager

*'The collaboration with KIYO showed me that learning is at the heart of a strong partnership, and that sound financial management can go hand in hand with trust and human values. Today, I continue to use the tools and approaches developed with KIYO, including in other projects.'*

*We now work differently: with better planning, greater transparency, and constant attention to the real impact of our work on the youth we serve'*



# School & Youth Structures.

In 2025, the programme continued its activities in **12 schools**, directly reaching more than **3.600 youth** (pupils), 61% of whom are girls. The **48 school clubs** supported by our partners continued to provide safe spaces where young people can express themselves and develop their talents. For example, girls are increasingly speaking up in dialogue and decision-making spaces, leading initiatives to promote gender equality among their peers and more frequently applying for leadership positions.

Within the schools, youth members of the school clubs implemented **39 initiatives** in their school environments and surrounding communities. The impact of these initiatives has led to growing recognition and support for the clubs from school administrations. Governance practices in these schools have also improved, with clearer planning processes and greater involvement of students in monitoring school activities.

In the communities, more than **2.700 youth** involved in community savings and loan groups (SILC) continued to strengthen their economic resilience and civic engagement. Supported by our partner Biraturaba, they meet weekly and are organised into **113 SILC groups** and **21 networks**. These community structures serve as spaces for dialogue and social cohesion, encouraging civic participation.

Their members have **increased their savings by 25%** and created **229 jobs**, including 30



*Photography & Art activities*

full-time positions. They have also carried out concrete actions in their communities, such as rehabilitating infrastructures, taking on leadership roles at the “hill level”, and showing solidarity with vulnerable households and school communities.

Across all these structures (school clubs, SILC groups and their network), youth accompanied

by the program are progressively gaining the skills needed to manage their own initiatives. Through these experiences, they develop leadership, communication and organisational skills, as well as a strong sense of responsibility, strengthening their role as active agents of change within their communities.



Discussion on the comic book



# 9.770

## Youth reached



36%  
Boys



64%  
Girls



**Dorine Kaneza, 16 years old**

**1st grade of secondary, Ecole fondamentale Gasave 1, Mwaro, Burundi**

“ Before the school clubs were created, I was very shy and did not dare to ask questions or speak in class. Joining the Arts and Science Club gave me the chance to sing, dance and learn practical skills while working closely with other students and our mentor. This experience gradually helped me overcome my shyness.

In 2025, I was elected to represent the girls at school and now serve as the head girl. In this role, I advocate for equal access to education, especially for girls who sometimes miss school during menstruation because they lack sanitary pads.

Together with other girls, we created a mutual support system so that sanitary pads are available when needed and a safe space where we can openly discuss the challenges we face. I am proud to act as a bridge between students and teachers. ”



**Kennedy Nimbona, 18 years old**

**Last grade of secondary, Member of a school club (HI)**

*“ Spring Communities, a partner of KIYO, organised a photography workshop after many members of the school clubs (HI) expressed interest in learning this skill. Through this workshop, I did not only learn how to use a camera – I discovered a real passion. I gained valuable technical skills, hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of photography as both an art and a profession.*

*This experience motivated me to take photography seriously, and I have decided to pursue it as a career. The skills I acquired are practical and can be directly applied to real job opportunities.*

*At a time when many young people complete their studies but struggle to find employment, I feel incredibly fortunate and proud. I now know that photography will be my profession, because it has already transformed my life. It has given me independence, a sense of purpose, and a new vision for my future. ”*

Annual Report



Kennedy - Photography workshop



ISE PAR BIRATURABA  
MWARO, LE 30 OCTOBRE 2025



**DOMAINES**

- Développement Communautaire
- Bonne Gouvernance

**PROMESSES DE MARQUE**

- Pour 1\$ investi dans les SILC, Biraturaba permet à un bénéficiaire d'accéder à 3,4\$ (1,2\$ de fonds propre et 2,4\$ de crédit) sur une période de 3 ans.
- Biraturaba promet de catalyser une dynamique de partenariat entre acteurs au niveau local (communes et provinces d'intervention) dans un environnement peu propice à la collaboration

**BIRATURABA RENFORCE LES CAPACITÉS DES ACTEURS LOCAUX (COMMUNAUTÉS, OSC ET AUTORITÉS LOCALES) LEUR PERMETTANT DE JOUER PLEINEMENT LEURS RÔLES ET FACILITE LA CRÉATION DES CADRES D'ÉCHANGE QUI FAVORISENT LEUR COLLABORATION ET LEUR TRAVAIL EN SYNERGIE**

**BIRATURABA**

**VISION**

Burundi uni et paisible où chaque acteur comprend et joue pleinement son rôle pour un développement intégral et durable

**MISSION**

Promouvoir des mécanismes communautaires de résilience économique, sociale et environnementale au Burundi, notamment à travers le changement positif des mentalités, la lutte contre l'ignorance et l'indifférence ainsi que l'implication et de mieux en mieux en synergie des différents acteurs (le pouvoir public, les organisations de la société civile et les titulaires des droits qui sont les citoyens)

**VALEURS**

**Apolitisme**: les membres et le personnel ne doivent pas appartenir aux partis politiques

**Respect**: la considération de nos partenaires dans leur dignité est au cœur de nos actions

**Responsabilité**: chaque membre et employé doit se montrer fiable, assumer pleinement chaque acte qu'il pose, et contribuer à la meilleure qualité des services rendus par l'Association

**Transparence**: nous communiquons une information juste, contextuelle, facilement

**2025**



# DR Congo

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, KIYO and its partner ASCEN invested in training and skills development to strengthen young people's socio-economic resilience and improve their employment opportunities. Together, we also used radio programming as a powerful tool to give children and youth a voice and encourage them to stand up for their rights. In partnership with ADED, KIYO also worked to make agriculture more attractive as a decent and sustainable source of income for young people, particularly for girls.



# Context & Partners.

## Context

In 2025, young people in North Kivu and South Kivu continued to live amid instability and uncertainty. Recurrent armed clashes, repeated displacement, and the erosion of public order restricted access to education, economic opportunities, and safe spaces for civic participation, complicating young people's efforts to build stable futures. Within this context, KIYO and its partners sustained the DGD programme, supporting youth employability and active citizenship, alongside the VIKAP programme, which promotes climate-smart agriculture and sustainable livelihoods. Even in the face of ongoing challenges, young women and men showed resilience and creativity, strengthening community networks and developing adaptive strategies to move forward.

## KIYO & partners

In 2025, KIYO and its partners worked side by side through regular exchanges and joint learning moments. These interactions supported continuous adjustments in both programme approaches and organisational processes.

### Roland Murhabazi Akili

#### Financial Assistant - ADED asbl

*'Today, we work with a more structured and reliable financial framework that aligns with donor requirements and national standards. Regular technical exchanges and targeted trainings helped us strengthen budget monitoring, improve financial reporting, and increase transparency with our partners and donors.'*

*A key milestone was the training on the new accounting system for non-profit organisations in the DRC. This learning process has also strengthened my skills in financial analysis, budget follow-up, and the preparation of financial statements.'*



## Julien Kasereka Mbokani

### Project Coordination - ASCEN



*'Through our partnership with KIYO, we have strengthened our approach to youth empowerment programming. Working in an environment based on trust and equal partnership helped us build confidence in our expertise and take greater initiative in planning, monitoring, and reporting. Regular exchanges also improved coordination with field teams and community structures while integrating transversal themes such as gender equality, inclusion, and environmental awareness. Today, ASCEN continues to support young people by building on their talents and capacities while responding to local realities.'*



Workshop with ADED and ASCEN teams reviewing the programmes' 2025 actions and results.



Training on Accounting System for Non-Profit Organizations

## Community actors and supported youth

As KIYO approaches the final phase of its 2022–2026 DGD programme cycle, we take a step back to assess the progress made since 2022 and to highlight the cumulative achievements of the collaboration between KIYO, its partners, community actors and young people in North and South Kivu.

Over the course of the programme, **1,510** young people took part in activities designed to support their transition into adulthood and active community life. Among them, 858 young women and men followed employability pathways, developing practical skills and launching income-generating activities, while 652 engaged in citizenship trajectories, strengthening their capacity to participate actively in their communities. Girls' participation remained significant, with 496 girls involved in employability pathways and 266 in citizenship initiatives.

### Employability

Results in employability are encouraging. In 2025, partners reported that on average more than four out of five supported youth (**84.75%**) either secured employment or developed their own income-generating activities. These outcomes reflect the steady work of local partners ASCEN and ADED, who supported young people through tailored training, coaching, and accompaniment.

Many participants strengthened their economic autonomy through vocational and agricultural training. Despite ongoing insecurity, young people adapted their activities to changing circumstances, showing resilience and determination. Support was anchored in community-based structures – including 18 Village Saving and Loan Associations, 4 Agricultural Training Centres, and 8 community-based vocational training centres – which provided young people with practical skills, mentoring, and support to strengthen their livelihoods and future prospects.

### Citizenship

Results in citizenship pathways also highlight the active engagement of young people in their communities. Through youth clubs and youth reporter groups facilitated by ASCEN, young people were supported in developing skills for active citizenship, dialogue, and community participation.

Youth reporters organised community radio broadcasts to share practical safety information and raise awareness within their communities on youth-related topics, contributing to informed and responsible engagement. These activities strengthened young people's confidence and reinforced their role as positive actors within their local environments.

Efforts to promote diversity and inclusion also supported greater recognition of girls and young women, who increasingly took on leadership roles within community-based youth structures. Support was anchored in 7 youth clubs and 3 youth reporter groups, providing safe spaces for dialogue, collective action, and peer learning.

# Project Highlight .

## Youth and Climate Resilience (VIKAP)

Through the VIKAP project, supported by the **Flemish Government's International Climate Action Programme**, more than **600 young farmers** in North and South Kivu strengthened their ability to adapt to changing climate conditions. In a region affected by irregular rainfall, soil degradation, and insecurity, young people explored practical, climate-resilient techniques such as crop diversification, organic fertilisation, and improved soil management.

The project combined hands-on experimentation with peer learning. Over **150 young farmers** took on mentoring roles, sharing knowledge through farmer-to-farmer exchanges and encouraging others to test new practices. This approach allowed sustainable techniques to spread organically through youth networks.

Young participants also engaged in multi-actor committees established in each intervention area. Together with local authorities and agricultural services, they contributed field observations that informed local adaptation plans on land use, soil management, and climate resilience.

By linking climate adaptation with livelihoods and youth leadership, VIKAP reinforced young people's role as drivers of resilience within their communities.







# 1.510

## Youth reached



48%  
Boys

52%  
Girls



*Landy Milanga Tuyishime, 25 yrs old  
Young participant in the programme  
VIKAP*

*“ I come from a community where agriculture is mainly a means of survival. Before joining the programme, I worked as a driver’s assistant and occasionally helped cultivate vegetables on my family’s land. I joined the programme through ADED and participated in several trainings on agricultural techniques, where I learned new, more effective farming methods.*

*These experiences helped me see agriculture differently, and it has now become my main source of income. Through ADED’s support, I also joined a Village Saving and Loan Association, where I learned how to save and manage my finances more responsibly. In the past, I often spent money without planning, but today I manage my income more carefully.*

*I have been able to buy two sheep and a plot of land where I hope to build my house. I also rent fields that I cultivate using my own resources. Step by step, I am becoming more independent, contributing to my family’s needs and participating more actively in community life.*

*”*



**Tumsifu Muletsi, 20 yrs old**

*“ Before joining the programme, I was a young woman without regular activity, but with a strong dream of becoming a fashion designer. I joined after ASCEN conducted awareness sessions in our community, and I was able to follow training in tailoring – a field closely linked to my ambitions.*

*At the JOLIE MODÈLE training centre, I gained practical sewing skills as well as basic entrepreneurial knowledge. After completing the training, ASCEN, in partnership with KIYO, supported me with a start-up kit including a sewing machine and accessories, as well as assistance with renting a workspace for our workshop. I also benefited from life skills training, economic empowerment sessions, and participation in a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA).*

*Over time, my teammates and I grew more confident and began working independently. I have already trained more than five other young people, helping them move towards autonomy. Today, I can support myself through my work, and I am proud of the path I have taken. My goal is to create a larger tailoring workshop and continue working towards my dream of becoming a stylist. ”*







# Philippines

In the Philippines, KIYO worked with local partners to expand opportunities for young people in vulnerable situations. Together with Bidlisiw, we supported youth in accessing decent employment through technical training programmes that combine professional skills with the development of life skills. Through our partnership with CYC, we strengthened the capacities of youth organisations to advocate for the rights of Indigenous children and youth. In addition, together with our partner PETA, we guided theatre arts teachers and young student-artists in using creativity and imagination to address social issues and express themselves through theatre.



# Context & Partners.

## Context

Despite the Philippines' continued economic growth and its classification as a middle-income country, many young people, particularly those in vulnerable situations still face significant barriers to education, decent work, and meaningful participation in decision-making processes. In 2025, financial pressures and structural inequalities continued to influence young people's choices, with increased interest in technical and vocational education pathways as an alternative to formal higher education. At the same time, youth organizations and networks remained active in civic engagement, advocacy, and community initiatives addressing issues such as education access, governance, and social justice. Partnerships with local government units, schools, TVET institutions, and private sector actors played an important role in maintaining opportunities for youth participation, skills development, and employment. These contextual dynamics highlight the continued relevance of initiatives that strengthen youth empowerment, employability, and active citizenship.

## KIYO & partners

Mutual and Shared Capacity Development (MCD-SCD) remained a central element of collaboration between KIYO Philippines and its partners in 2025. Learning exchanges continued, mostly online, through both bilateral and collective formats, contributing to a cumulative total that exceeded programme targets and strengthened joint reflection on youth empowerment practices. With Bidlisiw Foundation, exchanges focused on refining the APPS framework and strengthening partnerships with TVET providers and private sector actors to create more inclusive learning and employment pathways for youth.

Collaboration with CYC emphasized strengthening institutional systems, including governance, financial management, and safeguarding mechanisms within youth organizations.

The MCD process also supported partners in documenting methodologies, strengthening organizational policies, and sharing lessons learned with broader stakeholder networks. Through these exchanges, KIYO and its partners reinforced their collective capacity to sustain youth empowerment initiatives and institutionalize programme approaches beyond the current programme cycle.

## Marlou “Hans” O. Alviola

### Project Coordinator -Bidlisiw Foundation



*‘The partnership with KIYO strengthened institutional capacities to better serve out-of-school youth. It expanded collaboration with private sector and technical-vocational partners, increasing program relevance and reach.*

*This contributed to a more holistic and sustainable approach to youth empowerment and livelihoods. In 2025, a key learning was that lasting impact requires continuous awareness-raising and capacity-building.*

*Engaging diverse stakeholders improved coordination and overall program effectiveness. KIYO’s support enhanced mentors’ life skills, communication, and guidance capacities. Capacity-building initiatives strengthened planning, coordination, and implementation processes.*

*Ongoing support ensured program stability, expanded reach, and deepened impact within communities.’*

## Jhoemark Aldaba

### Cordilleran Youth Center

*‘KIYO has been one of our core funders since the early days of the Cordilleran Youth Center. Its consistent support has enabled us to advance our advocacies while strengthening our institutional foundations, particularly in operations and financial management. Beyond resources, KIYO has inspired us to grow as a youth-led organization grounded in passion and a genuine commitment to service. It has shown us that meaningful work can be both fulfilling and impactful, that joy can come from dedication, hard work, and the tangible results of our initiatives. As our partnership comes to a close, KIYO leaves behind a stronger and more resilient CYC, one that is better equipped to empower today’s youth and amplify their voices in an increasingly uncertain world.’*



# Schools & Youth structures.

Community structures supported by KIYO partners continued to strengthen in 2025, creating more opportunities for young people to learn, participate, and shape their communities.

Through the Cordillera Youth Center (CYC), 14 youth-led organizations served as platforms for youth leadership, advocacy, and community mobilization, enabling young people to address local issues and engage with institutions.

At the same time, Bidlisiw further expanded its network of 27 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers and 65 private companies under the “Business with a Heart” initiative, fostering more inclusive pathways to training and employment for disadvantaged youth.

Meanwhile, Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) strengthened its collaboration with schools and youth organisations, reaching a total of 50 secondary school and 5 youth theatre groups. In 2025, this work was further extended to public high schools in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), making an important step in reaching new regions and communities.

Together, these initiatives contribute to more inclusive and supportive learning environments, where young people can develop skills, express themselves, and actively in society.



Hayren Flores, 22 yrs old

Housekeeping Training Completer - Bidlisiw

“ I learned about ESWEO<sup>1</sup> through the Barangay GAD Focal Person, who encouraged me to join the program.

At that time, I felt lost, alone, and without hope, struggling with personal challenges. Through ESWEO, I gained important life skills such as self-confidence, self-control, and communication. I also learned the value of teamwork, active listening, and respect for others.

During skills training, I acquired practical knowledge in housekeeping, including bed-making. The program helped me realize my potential and see that I still have a future ahead.

It gave me the courage to step out of my comfort zone and rebuild my confidence.

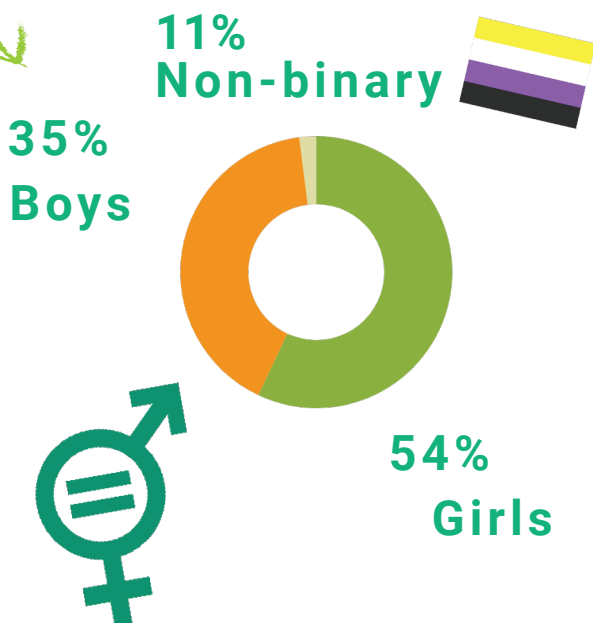
ESWEO became a source of hope, reminding me that life can improve despite hardships.

I am deeply grateful to the staff for their guidance, support, and for treating me like family.

Their trust and encouragement made me believe again that change and a better future are possible. ”

3423

Youth reached





**Kenneth Arroco**

**BIMAAK - CYC**

*“ I started as a youth leader during the start of the program, now I am already teaching in university, and at this stage of my life it would be easy to step back from youth organizing and focus on my professional work. But I continue to choose to be part of youth leadership because I have seen how important it is for young people to have spaces where they can grow, reflect, and act together on issues that affect them and their communities.*

*What I learned through this journey is that sustainability is really about people, about whether youth will continue organizing, mentoring others, and carrying the work forward.*

*I believe that many of us will continue, because what we built the past years was not only momentum, but also ownership. ”*



*PETA Goldmine Youth Theater Festival Philippines 20*



# Good Governance.

## General Assembly & Governance Board

KIYO has a highly motivated General Assembly and Governance Board. As we want to keep a close connection with our key actors, youth are also represented in our Assembly & Board. Each year, the Board evaluates its functioning in terms of good governance and compliance with Belgian law. This year, the Board focused on increasing the fundraising potential of the organisation.

## National Youth Advisory Boards

In the Philippines, DR Congo and Brazil, we have National Youth Advisory Boards. Through these youth structures, KIYO wants to ensure that the voices of the youth are taken into account in its programmes and governance structures. This way, KIYO guarantees youth participation in the decision-making processes of the organisation. It operationalises KIYO's belief that the youth should be the beating heart of the organisation.



**Current members of the Governance Board**



**JAN TRUYENS** CHAIR



**HELEEN CALLENS**



**FRANCINE DEVRIESE**



**KATRIEN VAN HOOYDONK**



**CHARLOTTE VROEMANS**



**JAN WYCKAERT**

# Integrity.



## Ethical code

KIYO subscribes to the ethical code of the VEF. The VEF is the Association for Ethics in Fundraising. Members of the VEF label inform donors, staff and employees at least on an annual basis about how raised funds are spent. Our annual report is a concrete translation of this obligation. Want to know more? Have a look at [www.vef-aerf.be](http://www.vef-aerf.be)

## Integrity

In 2025, KIYO's work focused on mutual and shared learning to further improve integrity policies, procedures, and tools at both the organizational level and in direct engagement with youth (ex. Philippines, DRC, and Belgium). Inspiration was sought from Belgian and national organizations to strengthen awareness-raising and complaint mechanisms (ex. Burundi).

Key thematic exchanges were held between KIYO offices, partners, and broader networks, covering topics such as racism and identity, integrity and working conditions for civil society organizations (Brazil), gender-based and sexual violence (Philippines), and the importance of wellbeing at work (Belgium). Additionally, KIYO Brazil and its partners published a best practices guide designed to inspire and support other civil society actors in navigating integrity challenges.

Furthermore, 14 integrity concerns (6 financial and 8 moral) were identified and managed at the level of the different country offices. One moral integrity complaint was formally received. This case was handled strictly in accordance with our established internal procedures and safeguarding protocols.





# Thank you,

Your support enables us to change the lives of many children and youth around the world

With your support KIYO managed to develop youth into problemsolvers, decision-makers, and critical thinkers in both local and global contexts, which contributes to a nation's strength and progress.

## Empowering Youth Together



KIYO empowers children and youth to take charge of their lives and realise their rights. Together with partners, KIYO strengthens children and youth. This enables them to bring about positive individual and societal change as global citizens.

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[KIYOempoweringyouthtogether](https://www.facebook.com/KIYOempoweringyouthtogether)

[KIYO\\_ngo](https://www.instagram.com/KIYO_ngo)

[KIYO-ngo.be](https://www.kiyo-ngo.be)

## **Annual Report**

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The logo for KIYO, featuring the word "kiyo" in a lowercase, white, hand-drawn style font with visible brush strokes. The letters are set against a dark teal background.