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EMPOWERING YOUTH TOGETHER

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**The one who
moves the
rock is the one
suffocating
beneath it.**

-Conceição Evaristo (Becos da Memória)

2024

kiyo

EMPOWERING YOUTH TOGETHER

Introduction.

Since October 2024, I have had the privilege and honour of leading KIYO as its new director. I step into this role with deep respect for those who came before me, visionary leaders who paved the way for what KIYO is today. Their dedication, along with the unwavering spirit of our team, inspires me every day.

We are living in uncertain times. Across the globe, civil society is under increasing pressure facing shrinking spaces, budget cuts, and reforms that threaten the very existence of many NGOs. Yet in this rapidly changing landscape, one thing remains constant: KIYO’s commitment to empowering young people will never waver.

Throughout 2024, we delivered on our mission with resilience and determination – a journey that fills me with immense pride as director. The war in Eastern DRC has deeply impacted our work. Yet it is precisely in moments of crisis that young people need us most. We have adapted quickly, compassionately, and decisively to ensure the young people we serve continue to receive the support they need to grow, lead, and shape their futures.

Adaptability is in KIYO’s DNA. We navigate challenges with resilience, respect for our partners, care for our team, and transparent collaboration with our board. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible team and our partners around the world. You are the backbone of KIYO. Without your passion and commitment, none of this would be possible.

And to you – our supporters, allies, and friends – thank you. Thank you for believing in the power of youth. Thank you for standing with us in our mission to create a more just and inclusive world. The world may change, but our shared belief in the potential of young people must remain constant. Together, we will continue to make a difference.



Tracy Bibo-Tansia
General-Director

Table of Contents.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 01 Empowering youth together..... | 07 DR Congo..... |
| 02 Our Impact..... | 08 The Philippines..... |
| 03 Strategic Highlights..... | 09 Good Governance..... |
| 04 Belgium..... | 10 Integrity..... |
| 05 Brazil..... | |
| 06 Burundi..... | |

Empowering youth together.

Our starting point is that talent is universal, but opportunity is not.

Today, too many youth are denied access to education and the labour market. Many of them are discriminated against, subjected to all kinds of violence and not given a voice in society. KIYO empowers youth to take charge of their lives, realise their talents and claim their rights to be able to contribute to a just and sustainable society.

To achieve this, we directly empower youth by connecting them across contexts. We also strengthen the work of local partners across five countries with specific expertise on youth empowerment. We actively learn from each other on how to create enabling environments in which all children and youth can participate and feel physically, socially and emotionally safe by strengthening skills, knowledge and networks.

Together we support the **personal development** of youth through inclusive theatre arts or social circus. We support **quality education** by building a school culture that embraces children's rights and focuses on youth participation. We increase their **employment** opportunities by supporting them in developing life and technical skills. We promote **active citizenship** among youth by connecting them with and inspiring them through exchanges with peers around the world.

Our impact.

KIYO focuses on empowering children and youth as we fully believe in their potential as active agents of change. Youth are experts on their own lives and experiences. We want to put them in the driver seat and support them in creating a better world for themselves. We believe in all youth and it is our mission to provide them with opportunities to take charge of their lives and realise their talents and rights. We do this together with our teams and partners in five countries: Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, DR Congo and the Philippines.



9 857

Children & youth



were directly supported by our programs.



88

Schools

were directly supported by our programs.

59%



Of youth involved

in our projects are girls.



51

Youth structures

were directly supported by our programs.

4 735



Social media followers

Strategic highlights.

Mid-Term Evaluation: Learning to Strengthen Our Impact

Learning is a cornerstone of KIYO's strategy, and in 2024, we put it into practice through a participatory mid-term evaluation of our 2022–2026 program, *Empowering Youth Together Globally*. The evaluation combined three components: an external evaluation in Belgium, peer evaluations between country offices (Brazil–Philippines, DR Congo–Burundi), and immersive peer learning among partner organizations from different countries.

This process enabled us to assess our progress while strengthening internal capacities and fostering cross-country collaboration and mutual learning. It confirmed that our approach—centred on building quality learning environments and supporting mutual capacity development—is advancing youth empowerment. Moreover, early signs of a multiplier effect are emerging, demonstrating that empowered youth inspire their peers and positively impact their communities.

The insights gathered are already informing program adjustments and will guide the implementation of our new strategy. The peer learning exchanges also laid the foundation for deeper solidarity and future peer-to-peer learning among partner organizations, reinforcing a shared commitment to youth-led change.



Strategic Planning: Shaping Our Future Together

2024 was a year of reflection and forward planning for KIYO. In October, we brought together colleagues from Brazil, Burundi, the DR Congo, and the Philippines—alongside our Belgium-based team and members of our Governance Board and General Assembly—for a week-long strategic workshop at the Abbey of Drongen. Drawing on insights from consultations with partners and youth in their countries, our colleagues helped ground the discussions in lived realities and diverse perspectives.

The workshop provided an opportunity to pause, connect across borders, and collectively reimagine our work, laying the foundations for KIYO's Strategic Plan 2027–2036. Youth empowerment remains our core purpose, and we sharpened our focus by reaffirming our commitment to young people who are not, or at risk of not being, in education, employment, or training. Together, we explored ways KIYO can become more impactful over the next decade—by deepening youth engagement, tailoring programs to local realities, strengthening equitable partnerships, and further decentralizing as an organization.

The result is a future-oriented strategy that reflects our belief: all young people have talent and are capable of being changemakers when they are supported, listened to, and given space to lead.





Belgium

KIYO worked on youth empowerment both inside and outside the school context.

Within the school context, we used a school-wide approach that involves students and teachers in working on global citizenship. In doing so, we focused on the role of youth 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.

Context & Schools.

Context

By developing their citizenship competencies, we want to support youth in understanding themselves and how they can make critical choices and stand up for their rights.

In 2024, KIYO elaborated its new strategy that will guide its activities in Belgium in the coming years. The focus will be on youth who are at risk of becoming NEET ('not in education, employment or training'). We want to work with these young people and inspire them to make changes for themselves and their environment, drawing on good practices and success stories from our partner countries. This will always be done, both inside and outside the school context, by creating a stimulating learning environment in which they can discover their rights and talents. In 2024, the Children's Rights Coalition elaborated a position paper on 'drop-outs in secondary education' ('Schooluitvalstrik') to which KIYO actively contributed. In it, a 'connecting school climate' is prominently put forward as a dam against school dropouts. KIYO will continue to actively promote this in 2025.

Schools

In 2024, KIYO started a School for Rights project with **WICO Hamont-Achel**. KIYO guides the school in building a school culture that embraces children's rights and global citizenship. Several sessions took place in the school, together with teachers and students. During the educational study day, the teachers and the school management discussed the importance of student participation and ways to strengthen it within the school. They also met with the student council to explore ways to raise its visibility and engage more students in its activities. The school also wants to focus on connection, a value they consider important. Together, they explored how to bring this to life, taking into account the increasing diversity of the student population.

At the **Sint-Michielscollege Brasschaat**, KIYO is also working to bring global citizenship into the school in a structural way. In collaboration with the student council, they explored how to strengthen student participation at school and how to further integrate healthy food into the school culture.

At **De Stemstroom Antwerp**, the School for Rights project was completed. This year's 'Global Day' once again highlighted the school's diversity in a positive way, while student participation was the focus of the pedagogical study day. In the final sessions with the core team, an action plan was drawn up. It aims to promote children's rights and address related challenges, strengthen student participation, and ensure a safe, healthy school environment – including through the redesign of the playground. In early 2025, this school will be labelled as a School for Rights, but its continuation is assured!

The **School for Rights partnership** launched the master class 'in connection with your students'. Atheneum Geraardsbergen is being coached on how to create a connecting classroom and school climate through this short-term trajectory. This new approach also gives schools the opportunity to start working on global citizenship through short and flexible pathways. In this way, the partnership wants to explore new ways of introducing children's rights in schools.



Youth2Youth

Through the Youth2Youth program, we connect young people across borders. In this way, they inspire each other to stand up for their rights. A group of youth from Atheneum Brussels exchanged with a group from Rio de Janeiro about the right to identity, which was identified as a common challenge. They also exchanged on how they understand and practice global citizenship.

In 2024, KIYO continued the global citizenship program with a group of youth from the King Baudouin Foundation's 'Boost for Talent' program. Following a session on global citizenship and global challenges — and the role young people can play in addressing them — students took part in a virtual exchange with youth from our Congolese partner ASCEN. Both groups exchanged on how they experience situations of discrimination and insecurity in their respective contexts. This session triggered a lot of emotions in sharing about their different realities, such as the ongoing conflict in DR Congo and how it affects the Congolese youth. This meeting gave them the opportunity to ask each other questions and address the emotions triggered by what was discussed..

Youth structures.

Over the past year, KIYO has continued to work with **SosyalBen**, a Türkiye-based youth organisation that works with young people who volunteer to organise after-school activities in the school context with children in Turkey. Based on the guidance process and a training by facilitators from KIYO, the organisation has developed an initial series of training sessions around global citizenship for their volunteers. Together, we explore how they can implement this as effectively as possible, actively involving the centre's volunteers and strengthening their motivation and capacity to take action in their own communities.

Nyemime Akpee Belgium ASBL, a Ghanaian diaspora organisation based in Brussels with activities in both Belgium and Ghana, is completing its accompaniment project. Over the past year, it has continued working on strengthening the right to participation for children and youth, exploring how to involve young people more actively in its projects in both countries — as well as in the organisation itself.

Important steps were also taken around identity, which is an important pillar in the empowerment process of young people. KIYO and SosyalBen organized a day around talents, rights - particularly to right to participation -, and identity with the youth they work with.

As part of an **Erasmus+** youth sector cooperation project, KIYO, together with a French partner, **Lianes Coopération**, developed an experience-based toolbox for youth workers around active citizenship. The toolbox offers a variety of tools to work with youth on talents, rights, sustainable development goals and action- contributing to a more inclusive and resilient society, where young people have the opportunity to get involved and feel responsible for their own environment. During a two-day interactive workshop in Belgium on 19 and 20 September 2024, we brought together youth workers from 7 different European countries (Croatia, Turkey, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Belgium and France) to test and enrich the toolbox.



Emil Nielsen

Project Manager - **Oxfam Denmark**

'I think the way you develop the materials and show them to us was very good because you have so much focus on peers. Every time you work with a group, you have to start from the slogan 'Nothing about us without us', and it feels like this material [the toolbox] is really grounded in the young people. And you can really feel that when you read this, there are some good thoughts about what has been implemented and what has worked. So I think it's the right approach.'



<https://kiyo-ngo.be/toolbox-active-citizenship>

Project Highlights.

YOUCA 2024 #QuartierTransformé

In 2024, we were able to experience the #QuartierTransformé YOUCA campaign up close ! As a partner in the campaign, we provided teaching materials that were promoted and distributed to all participating schools in Flanders and Brussels.

To kick-off the exchanges, Belgian YOUCA ambassadors traveled to Burundi to get to know the project as well as the youth involved, and better understand their culture. Following that, we had the opportunity to host 10 Burundian youth and their mentors from our partner Spring Communities in Belgium. These 10 ambassadors spoke to hundreds of pupils about the theme 'the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable living environment' and about how art can be a form of activism.

* " We discussed, exchanged ideas, danced and sang. We did so much together and became real friends. Saying goodbye was the hardest part. "

HAPPY, 16 - Spring Communities ambassador



Group photo of the YOUCA project youth & Spring Communities mentors in Belgium.



Group photo of the Spring Communities ambassadors and part of the KIYO team in Belgium.

Lots of insightful workshops and discussions, games, dance and songs!



Group photo of the YOUCA youth & all their mentors in Burundi.



Admiring Burundi's preserved nature.



Circus4Climate

The YOUCA campaign theme was also turned into reality in Belgium. The Burundian and Belgian group of youth moved on to the next project, Circus4Climate in Antwerp. KIYO brought together strong partners and committed young people to create a circus performance about climate justice. Belgian-Guinean company Amoukanama provided professional circus expertise, Burundian Spring Community ambassadors and Belgian youth shared their knowledge and experiences on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Good Planet provided expertise and reflection on the theme of climate justice and Ell Circo D'ell Fuego provided artistic direction. In only one week, with all these strong partners and young people, we came up with a dazzling circus performance.

Circus4Climate was performed twice in the culture house Corso in Berchem, Antwerp, first for an audience of students and teachers, and once for the general public. The audience was made aware of the challenges of climate justice. In their feedback, audience members shared how they were inspired by this positive approach, our creativeness and the brilliant show that breathed youth empowerment!

Curious to see
what it was really
like? Watch the
aftermovie !



Standing ovation from the audience.



Sharing expertise.



Together,
we can make
a change.



*" I'm even more
convinced now that it's
really important we
reach youth through
art, to raise topics
that would otherwise be
moralizing or managed
by adults. "*

*NATHALIE - Performer
from Amoukanama*



"J'en ai marre !" - Spoken word during the performance.



736

Youth reached



57%
Boys



43%
Girls



Nicky, 17

Participant from the Youth2Youth program and the Circus4Climate project.

“**The sessions with KIYO [at school] helped us get know ourselves better. We also discovered more about our personal talents and the talent cards helped us match words to them. We were also able to better realize what our rights actually are, and that there is still some work to do to make improvements at our school.**”

Brazil

Through our partnership with AMAR, we increased opportunities of youth living in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro to participate in professional courses and to find a decent job. With SER we worked on personal development within and outside the school context through their social circus methodology. Together with the youth-led organisation YOUCA Brasil, we inspired youth from all backgrounds to organise themselves and develop their capacities to advocate for better youth-oriented policies and programs for Brazilian youth.

Context & Partners.

Context

Despite the election of a pro-democracy president, Brazilian politics reflected the rise of conservative waves that swept across the world. The country faced significant setbacks in public policies and human rights, leading to increased violence against vulnerable groups, especially children and adolescents, women, and LGBTQIA+ people. Social inequality and income concentration remain major challenges in Brazilian society, limiting opportunities for youth.

In Rio de Janeiro, 1 in 3 young people between 18 and 24 is either not working or studying or is engaged in precarious labour conditions. Class, race, and gender stigmas affect this group more profoundly, placing them among the city's poorest 25%, of whom 60% are women and 35% are Black women.

Despite these challenges, civil society has expanded discussions on youth rights and contributed to broadening equal access to rights, particularly by promoting youth participation in advocacy and decision-making spaces.

KIYO & partners

Through their partnership with KIYO, local partners AMAR¹, SER² and YOUCA Brasil³ have deepened their methodologies and institutional frameworks, further establishing themselves as inclusive and welcoming spaces for youth empowerment.

KIYO's mutual and shared capacity development enabled them to strengthen and improve their interventions, implementing best practices while deepening their knowledge on areas such as gender, diversity and advocacy. KIYO also helped them further developing management skills that can be applied across their organisations.

1 AMAR: Associação Beneficente Amar
2 SER: Se Essa Rua Fosse Minha
3 YOUCA BRASIL: Youth For Change And Action



Antonio China

Project Coordinator– **AMAR**

"Through its training, KIYO guided us on how to build tools to influence other TVET actors. With the youth, the team identified the importance of working on crucial themes to enrich youth's critical view of society, the world, and their rights as active citizens. These are talents that had previously gone unrecognised."



Sarah Silva

Project Assistant– **SER**

"In 2024, KIYO, with its Integrity Focal Point, served as an inspiring model and catalyst for significant transformations in our organization. Deeply impacted by this visionary initiative, we made the strategic decision to strengthen our governance structure and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the pillars of ethics, transparency, and institutional responsibility."



Sueny Nogueira

Coordinator– **YOUCA Brasil**

"In 2024, the training promoted by KIYO enabled us to strengthen our financial management, and also enabled us to strengthen other youth-led organizations in this area. Regarding our direct work with the youth, we achieved positive results, especially in offering trainings on active citizenship and future/life planning for the youth, while also increasing our activities with youth organizations."

Schools & Youth structures.

AMAR worked together with **10 TVET** providers to offer 145 youth vocational training courses in solar panel installation, rainwater reuse, drone operation, barbering, nail and eyebrow design, box braids, advanced Excel, and web design. The students recognized the experience as special and transformative because they not only learned a profession and strengthened their socio-economic autonomy, but also developed life skills that allowed them to inspire and positively impact the lives of their families and communities.

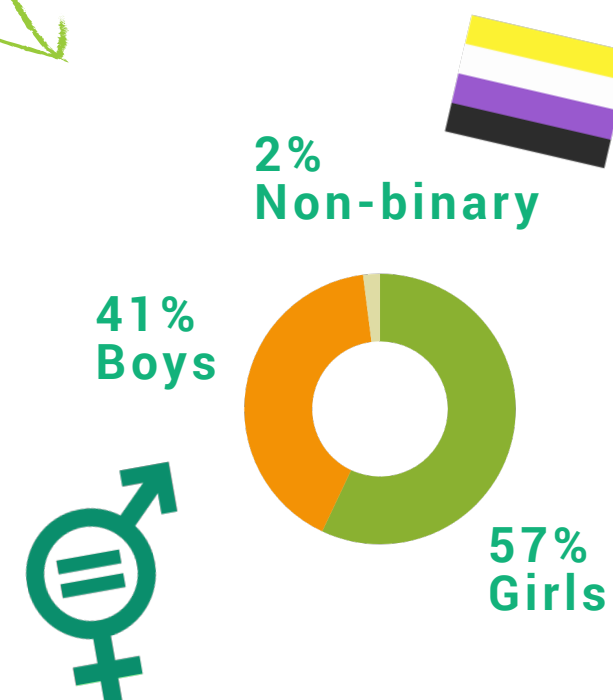
Through the creation of the « Circus in schools network », SER supported **5 public schools** in developing a school culture that prioritizes the rights of children and youth, encourages their participation, and welcomes diversity. The schools shared that the social circus and artistic education allowed them to hold debates with their students on social issues such as discrimination against young Afro-Brazilians, gender, diversity and inclusion, drug abuse and climate change. SER also contributed to the development of **7 youth cultural organizations** by offering them exchange meetings and training on rights, diversity and creative professionalization, aiming to expand their opportunities as young artists.

14 youth-led organizations were strengthened by YOUCA Brasil, developing skills in the areas of leadership, internet security, youth rights, and advocacy. YOUCA Brasil facilitated learning exchanges between youth from these organizations, contributing to their development as agents of change. YOUCA Brasil also trained 16 young leaders as youth council delegates to advocate for the youth rights agenda at the municipal and state levels in Rio. These leaders were also part of the synergy with TRIAS Brasil, where the youth launched the « Rural and Urban Youth Manifesto », an official document with the demands of Brazilian youth to confront environmental racism and climate injustice.



752

Youth reached



Eduardo, 20 years old

YOUCA Brasil youth participant. Reach: Capoeira do Dendê– KIYO NYAB member

“*Talking about YOUCA is talking about a place that supports and welcomes me with all the experiences I face in my daily life as a young Black man living in the periphery. To speak about YOUCA is to speak about resistance, about a place of inclusion, a space that is always offering us many resources. Today, I feel fulfilled knowing that there is an organization working to ensure that young people have more guarantees of their rights.*”

Burundi

In Burundi we collaborated with partners APRODEM, BIRATURABA and Spring Communities on strengthening school structures to increase participation and empowerment of students. Together with FVS-Amie des enfants and BIRATURABA, we focused on economic empowerment of youth through the set-up of community-based savings & loan groups.

Context & Partners.

Context

The socio-political context remained relatively stable in 2024. However, on the economic side, the country is experiencing significant inflation, a severe fuel shortage, and price fluctuations in the market. This situation has affected the monitoring and implementation of activities, but has particularly impacted the business climate and consequently the youth who are starting income-generating activities.

KIYO & partners

The collaboration between KIYO and the program's partner organisations Aprodem¹, BIRATURABA, Spring Communities² and FVS-Amie des Enfants³ has strengthened their expertise and fostered the mutual development of their approaches, methodologies and tools. In the area of youth empowerment, some partners have developed new educational tools, such as comics and games, to raise awareness of children's rights and to highlight the potential of youth. Youth participation, aimed at ensuring greater technical sustainability, has been central to these methodologies.

At the organizational level, partners have established internal policies on children's rights and integrity. Training on gender mainstreaming was also provided, enabling program teams enhance their knowledge and practice in this area. Finally, at the financial level, bilateral exchanges between KIYO and its partners have helped fine-tune the use of the program's financial management tools.

¹ APRODEM: Association pour la Promotion et la protection des Droits des Enfants Marginalisés

² Spring Communities: Formely called "Jeunesse au service d'un Burundi meilleur"

³ FVS-Amie des Enfants: Famille pour Vaincre le SIDA



Eddy Gahungu

Project Manager – **BIRATURABA**

"In 2024, through exchanges with organisations working on the Empowering Youth Together in Burundi program, Biraturaba optimised its methods of supporting savings and credit groups, and school clubs by integrating new tools (images, games, etc.). These new techniques have made it easier for youth to take ownership of their knowledge, while at the same time enabling them to develop talents that had previously gone unused"



Oswald Ndacayisaba

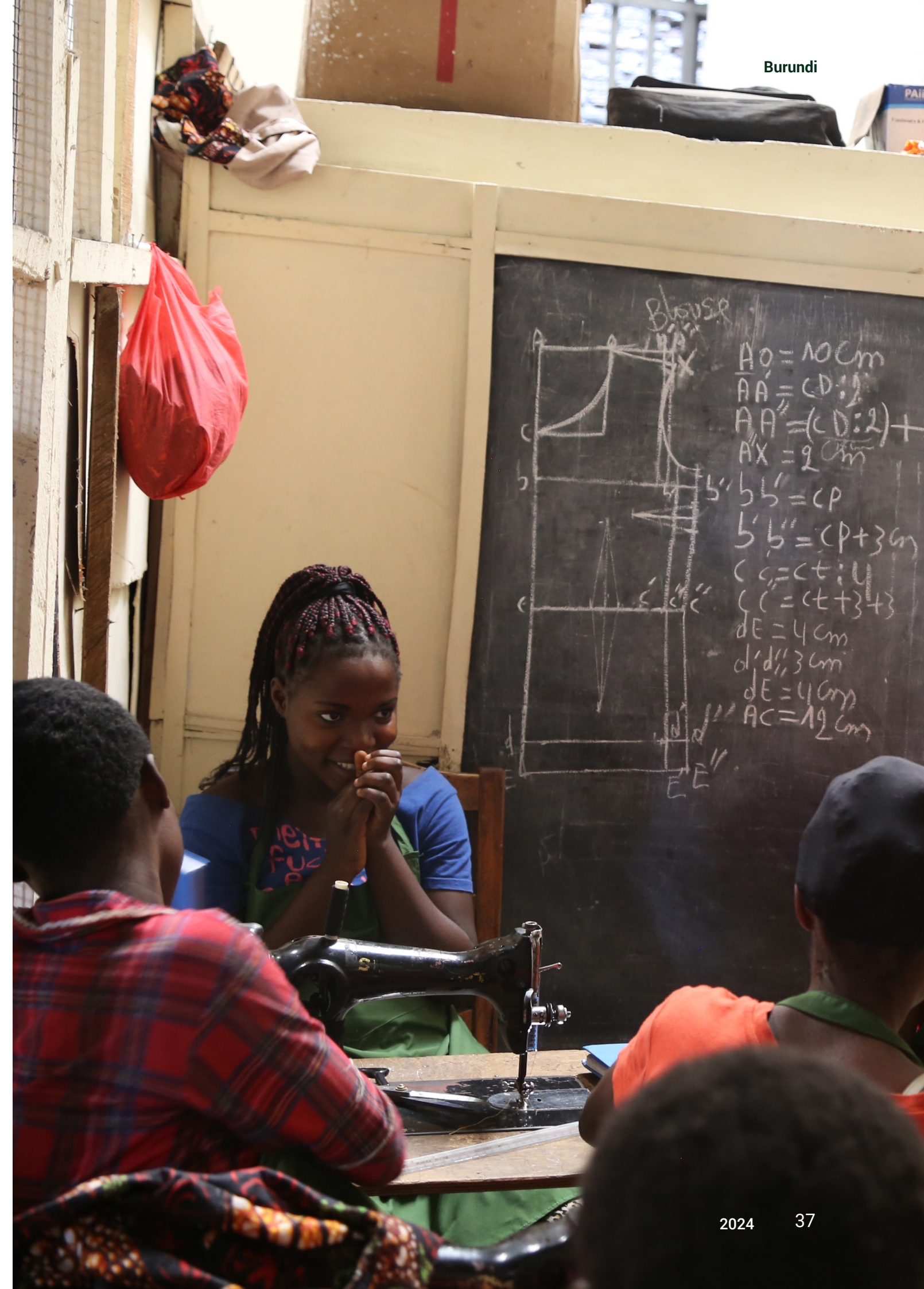
Project Manager– **Spring Communities**

"Through exchanges with KIYO and other program partner organizations, Spring Communities has strengthened its organizational capacities, refined its strategies and broadened its impact, particularly with youth and local communities. The Inspiration Hub, a place for youth to grow and learn as part of the Empowering Youth Together programme, has facilitated their engagement in school and community initiatives. By taking charge of local issues, youth have acquired practical skills, empowered themselves and actively contributed to change in their schools and communities, creating a positive and lasting impact in their environment."

Schools & Youth structures.

In 2024, the program continued its activities in Burundi in **30 schools**, within **97 school structures** (12 more than the previous year) in the provinces of Gitega, Mwaro, Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie. In these schools, the program has directly **reached more than 2,500 pupils** who are members of school clubs set up and supervised by partners APRODEM, BIRATURABA and Spring Communities. The work in these schools encourages the development of environments that are conducive to the pupils' personal development and the acquisition of new knowledge and skills. As a result, **more than 30 initiatives** have been carried out by the young students to raise awareness among their peers in the schools, as well as members of the surrounding communities, about sensitive issues or topics of public interest. These initiatives took various forms: art projects, environmental protection campaigns, competitions on children's rights, exchanges on equality and inclusion, etc.

Outside the school environment, in 2024 the program **supported more than 2,600 young people** in their communities. They are divided into **126 savings and credit groups** accompanied by partners FVS -Amie des enfants and BIRATURABA, with the aim of strengthening their economic resilience through financial education. By the end of the year, the program had generated **more than 900 regular small-scale income-generating activities (IGAs)** for young group members. To reinforce the ownership of what has been achieved, several of these groups have formed networks (**18 networks** have been created) to encourage group members - through education in global citizenship - to engage in actions of common interest. Among the achievements of these networks are the **support given to 25 schoolchildren** by providing them with school equipment, the construction of a small house for a very vulnerable young orphan or the manufacture of 350 bricks to rehabilitate a school. Since 2024, these networks have also begun to take an active part in hill meetings to help find solutions to the challenges identified at local level.



Project Highlight



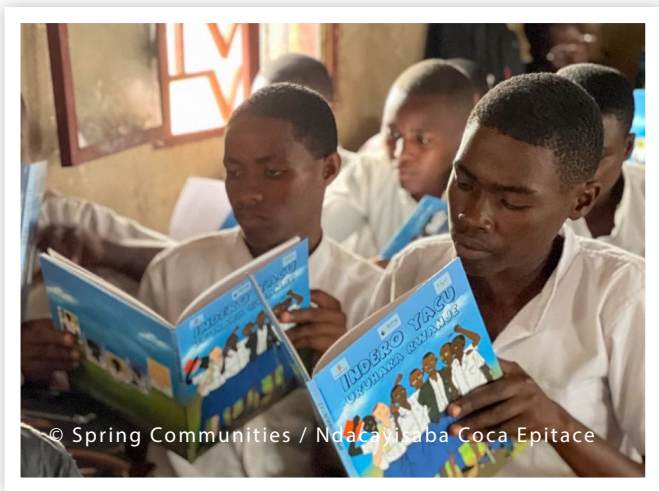
Launch of educational comic book

Spring Communities developed a new innovative approach towards quality education through comics dedicated to empowering the Burundian youth in schools. Together with the partner and the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research in Burundi we launched the new educational comic book in June 2024, "**INDERO YACU, URUHARA RWANJE**", which has already been distributed to six schools.

This has been a milestone since incorporating comics as educational tools into the education system of Burundi means addressing multiple challenges, from improving literacy rates to making learning more engaging and relevant to students' lives. This new educational tool is making education more resilient and learning more enjoyable, which will eventually increase student motivation.

Spring Communities also developed an original methodology based on the comic book, to place youth at the heart of learning.

By adopting an active methodology, they encourage these youth to become actors in their own learning rather than mere spectators, making educational content more lively and adapted to their reality.

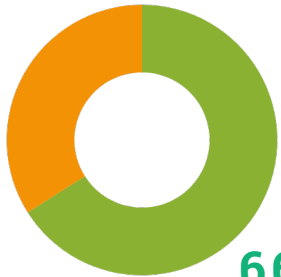


5 320

Youth reached



34% Boys



66% Girls



Mado, 17

Student participant in her schools Inspiration Hub

“Taking part in the Inspiration Hubs was a turning point for me. It helped me to develop my self-confidence, to better understand my rights and to learn to stand up for my ideas. Today, I share what I've learned with my friends and family, explaining to them the importance of demanding our rights, fighting for gender equality and ensuring fair access to education. My dream is to live in a world where all young people, whatever their background, have the same opportunities. With the Hubs, I feel ready to inspire my community and make a difference.”

DR Congo

KIYO and ASCEN invested in training and skills development of youth to strengthen their socio-economic resilience and employment opportunities. We also used radio programming with our partner as a powerful tool to give children and youth a voice and empower them to stand up for themselves and defend their rights. Together with ADED, we contributed to making agriculture attractive again as a decent and sustainable source of income for youth, especially for girls.

Context & Partners.

Context

The year 2024 was characterised by massive population displacements caused by fighting in the Masisi, Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories, which make up KIYO's rural intervention zone in North Kivu. Some of the youth supported by the program in the Masisi and Nyiragongo territories, who used to make a living from farming, have been forced to leave their communities and have started a new life in the IDP (internally displaced person) camps, where they have launched income-generating activities to supplement humanitarian aid. Displaced youth are deprived of their rights because they are permanently exposed to the risks of identity manipulation and forced recruitment into armed groups, a situation that disrupts their empowerment trajectories.



Noella Bahati
Administration and Finance officer–
ASCEN¹

"The MCD² has enabled ASCEN to develop internal policies on gender, child protection and integrity. On the basis of these policies, ASCEN pays more attention to gender and inclusion aspects when targeting young people, recruiting and implementing activities."

¹ ASCEN: African Social Cohesion Entrepreneurship Network
² MDC: Mutual Capacity Development



Alexis Musole
Financial Administrator– **ADED**¹

"Mutual learning with KIYO has enabled ADED to improve its annual reporting system. In addition to the project reports sent to partners, ADED produces a global annual report with organisational indicators. This has given the organisation greater visibility, and ADED is now eligible for several funding opportunities, with its portfolio growing every year. Learning from KIYO has had a positive impact on our organisation."

¹ ADED: L'Appui au Développement d'Enfant en Détresse

Community actors and supported youth

Over the course of 2024, the following community actors have worked with young people to bring about change in various areas:

Employability : Currently, **75.1% of the young people supported have either found a job or started their own income generating activity (IGA)**. This figure represents the average employability results of two partners: 82.5% of the young people supported by ASCEN (out of 183 young people, 166 of whom are in employment, 137 have an IGA) and 73% of the young people supported by ADED (out of 535 young people supported, 390 already have an IGA).

These youth, who have initiated IGAs after receiving training in agricultural techniques and various trades, have access to income, which enables them to meet their needs in a dignified manner. They are now safe from manipulation and pressure to engage in indecent sources of income by joining armed groups, kidnapping, prostitution, etc. All these youth were supported by **18 Village Savings and Credit Associations, 4 Agricultural Learning Centres** and **8 "Structures for the Professional Support of Young People"**.

Active Citizenship : A total of **437 youth**, including 262 boys and 175 girls, **were accompanied on the road to active citizenship** by partner ASCEN. Thanks to this support and through their own initiatives, the young people mobilized community members around development actions in their communities. Some youth have become active members of their local development committees and have contributed to decision-making on local development.

By valuing their differences, these young people help build stronger connections and mutual understanding between communities. This means that minority groups such as albinos, the blind and people with physical disabilities, can find their place in the community and in youth groups. All these young people were supported by **7 youth clubs** and **3 groups of young reporters**.

Project Highlight

Launch of the MAMA YETU project

In 2024, KIYO and Congolese partner ADED launched a new project in eastern DR Congo under the Flemish government's VIKAP climate action programme. **Mazingira, Maisha Yetu**—Swahili for "Our Environment, Our Life"—supports young small-scale farmers in North and South Kivu to build more resilient livelihoods through sustainable, climate-smart agriculture.

The project equips young farmers with hands-on training in soil protection, crop diversification, and agroecological techniques that respond to climate-related challenges. Beyond the farm, it brings communities together to explore how climate change impacts local food production and natural resources—and to take joint action. In each area, local action groups have been set up to develop and implement plans for the sustainable use of water, soil, and biodiversity.

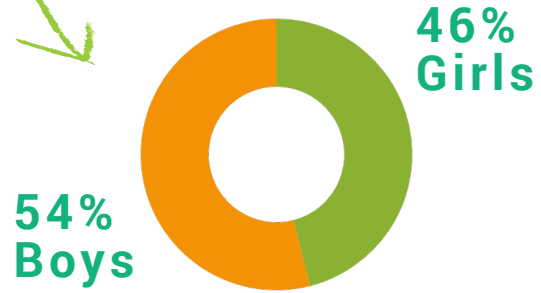
In its first year, the project reached over 3,500 community members through awareness-raising activities, trained 435 young farmers—more than half of them young women—and established four community-led action groups. In a region where both conflict and climate change threaten livelihoods, young people are taking the lead—working with their communities to safeguard their environment and secure their futures.





1 139

Youth reached



Rebecca , 25

Participant from a sewing course organised by ASCEN

“After taking a training course in cutting and sewing coupled with personal development, I launched my own sewing workshop called ‘LA FIDÉLITÉ’. The workshop started with a single sewing machine, but thanks to efficient management, I now own four sewing machines. They are used by the young people I trained, free of charge, to help them develop their skills.”

Philippines

Together with Bidlisiw, we increased opportunities of youth in vulnerable situations, to access decent jobs through participation in technical courses with special attention to the development of life skills. Through our partnership with CYC, we strengthened the capacities of youth organisations to effectively advocate for the rights of indigenous children and youth. We also guided theater arts teachers and young student-artists, together with PETA, in using creativity and imagination to address social issues and express themselves through theatre arts.

Context & Partners.

Context

In the Philippines, evolving political, economic, and social landscapes continue to shape the realities of children and youth. The post-COVID economic boom, shifts in corporate social responsibility (CSR) approaches, and changes in education policies—including the roll-out of the MATATAG curriculum and leadership transitions within the Department of Education (DepEd)—have influenced opportunities for young people. Persistent challenges remain, such as economic insecurity driving youth to prioritize immediate income over education or training, stereotypes affecting employment opportunities, and continued red-tagging and other forms of threats and violence in certain areas. Strengthened partnerships, coaching, and mentorship initiatives have facilitated program effectiveness, highlighting the need for sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration to advance children’s rights and youth empowerment.

KIYO & partners

In 2024, KIYO Philippines strengthened its partnership strategy through sustaining the Mutual and Shared Capacity Development (MCD-SCD) activities with the Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC), Bidlisiw Foundation, and the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA). Notably, KIYO Philippines staff served as peer evaluators during the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), while the partners participated as peer learners. The MTE took place in various program areas in the Philippines and in Rio de Janeiro last April and May, respectively. Both KIYO Philippines and its partners gained valuable experiences and lessons from the MTE, which are now being consciously integrated into the implementation of the remaining years of the program. Additionally, the annual Reinforcement Workshop played a vital role in advancing discussions on key program themes, including gender and environment.



Jessabel Pino-Concepcion

Project Coordinator/ Enhancing Self and Wage Employment Opportunities Program – **Bidlisiw Foundation Inc.**

"KIYO's support is a transformative investment in the future of marginalized youth, empowering them with essential life skills and providing them access to meaningful employment opportunities. The success stories of youth who have gained stable jobs and the ability to support themselves and their families stand as a testament to the power of this programme."



Maria Cleo Cuya

Program Coordinator for the KIYO-CYC Program– **Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC)**

"KIYO's guidance and feedback have been invaluable in helping CYC refine its operational systems and organizational methods. This partnership has also played a pivotal role in expanding the reach and impact of youth-led initiatives in the Cordillera region. The shared dedication to empowering youth in the region has fostered a deeper, more sustainable impact."



Csairus John M. Habla
Program Officer– **PETA**

"Aligning KIYO's empowerment approach with PETA's OAO (Orientation, Artistry, and Organization) framework has made our partnership even more meaningful. Seeing youth and teachers grow in confidence and passion through the programme is a core memory I will always carry. Working with the Department of Education, local government units, and community partners has deepened my understanding of kapwa—the shared connection and responsibility that define us as Filipinos. This experience has strengthened my belief in the power of collective action and the change we can create together."

Schools & Youth structures.

Bidlisiw collaborated with **24 technical-vocational institutions** and **53 private companies** to enhance the training of youth in vulnerable situations. A pivotal moment was the sustained usage of KIYO's Awareness – Participation - Protection – Skills development (APPS) approach, with these institutions and companies actively engaging in APPS scanning and assessment to identify gaps and devise action plans. This led to the implementation of common activities related to APPS, enhancing the integration of life skills and trauma handling among youth. Moreover, these actors influenced other private companies to adopt the APPS lensing process.

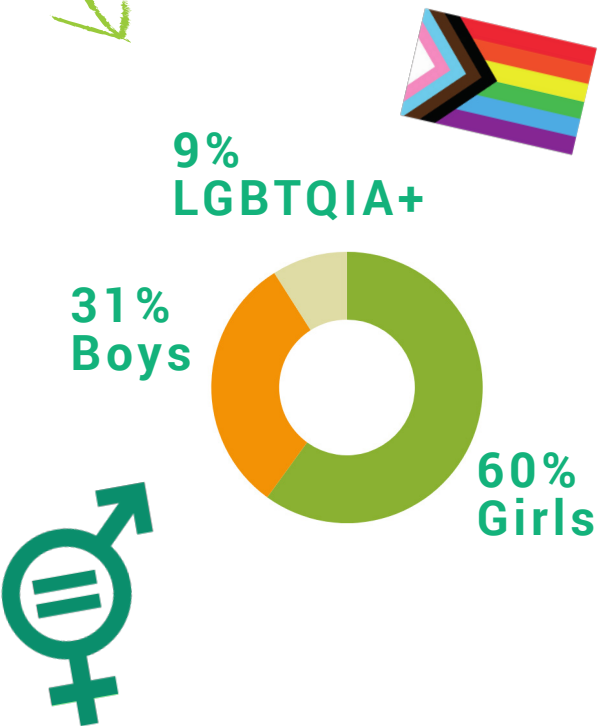
CYC partnered with **14 youth-led organisations** across the Cordillera region, focusing on themes like gender & diversity, environment, and human rights. They demonstrated improved abilities in implementing programs on youth protection, awareness, leadership skills development, and participation. They expanded their membership, networking, cultivated second-line leaders, formed additional youth groups, and enhanced organisational management systems.

PETA collaborated with **48 secondary schools** and **five youth theatre organisations**. 'Special Program in the Arts' teachers successfully translated the Department of Education's curriculum guide into everyday lesson plans, leveraging their enhanced understanding of theater and teaching tools. Inclusive teaching methods became more prevalent among teachers, while schools and youth theatre organisations staged 69 theater shows on societal issues attended by over 60 000 predominantly youth audiences.



1 910

Youth reached



Cristel Gawisan
Chairperson - Progressive Igorots for Social Action (PIGSA) and CYC member.

“*Being an indigenous young woman, I've always felt a deep connection to my roots, but it wasn't until I became involved with Progressive Igorots for Social Action that I truly began to understand the power of our heritage. As the new chairperson of the organization, I've seen firsthand how our collective strength can preserve and uplift our culture. The journey has been transformative, and I'm proud to be a part of a movement that is bringing our stories and traditions to the forefront.*”



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 DEVRIES



PHILIPPE SCHIETSE



KATRIEN VAN HOOYDONK



CHARLOTTE VROEMANS



JAN WYCKAERT

"KIYO has broadened my outlook and confronted me with a different reality - a world in which children and youth grow up in vulnerable circumstances and are often denied equal opportunities. What particularly touches me, is how KIYO not only supports these young people, but also empowers them to make their voices heard, develop their talents and be resilient in life."

Philippe Schiets
Governance Board member



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. Want to know more? Have a look at www.vef-aerf.be

Integrity

In 2024, KIYO renewed its values, the foundations of our integrity framework. The new values are: Interconnection, Inclusion, Sustainability and Adaptability. They have been developed and validated across the different countries where we work and apply in each of these contexts. You can read more here: <https://www.kiyo-ngo.be/who-we-are/integrity>

To further enhance our integrity culture, KIYO also continued its internal awareness raising and training activities on integrity. Besides the briefing of new staff on policies and procedures in place, quarterly exchanges and training are organised with the Integrity Focal Points of our country teams. An overview of the Integrity Framework and Codes of conduct are available here: <https://www.kiyo-ngo.be/who-we-are/integrity>. Also, continuous capacity development takes place between KIYO and its partners, as well as between partners around integrity and child & youth safeguarding issues. Furthermore, three possible financial integrity concerns and two possible moral integrity issues were identified and managed at the level of different KIYO country offices.



Integrity.



Leave a legacy
with KIYO?

Empower youth to
dream and shape the
future!

Why support KIYO ?

- Use your legacy to invest in sustainable, impactful solutions for young people.
- You are reassured that everything is well taken care of.

Contact our Legacy Advisor Jan De Paepe via
0478 45 42 81 OR jan.depaepe@kiyo-ngo.be

More information :
kiyo-ngo.be/support-us/legacies



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 problem-solvers, 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.

 [KIYOempoweringyouthtogether](#)

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