

DGD programme

GLOBE 2023

Impressions and realisations

In 2023, the GLoBe programme was working on Good Local Governance through 14 town twinnings, 3 collaborations between VVSG and sister associations and strengthening the integration of the SDGs.



VVSG





2023 in figures

- **4 Flemish municipalities** took part in the **town twinning conference in South Africa** with their partner municipalities of South Africa and Botswana. This was organised by the VVSG in cooperation with its South African sister organisation SALGA. The focus of this exchange was on waste and economy.
- **300 vulnerable households** in the South African municipality of Bergrivier received a basic kit and all the information to compost. This is how the Bergrivier - Heist-op-den-Berg twinning is working on better waste sorting. The target is to get all organic waste out of the residual waste stream by 2027.



115 Flemish municipalities took part in Sustainable City Week 2023. The central theme was education.

- In Ecuador, **23 'mingas'** were organised in 2 partnerships. These are structures where citizens work together to erect fences around water sources (Guaranda) and carry out works on irrigation canals (Oña).



There were more than **160 participants** for the webinar SDGs in environmental analysis. Many participants were in key positions, such as general managers, finance directors and policy officers.

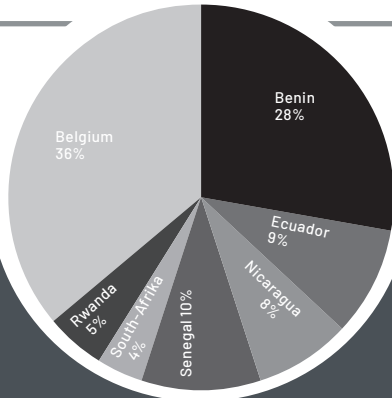
- **190 women** and **14 youths** produce lettuce, mint, sorrel, okra, aubergine and lemongrass on horticultural plots in Tambacounda, Senegal.

80 women received training on sowing and replanting techniques through the municipality.

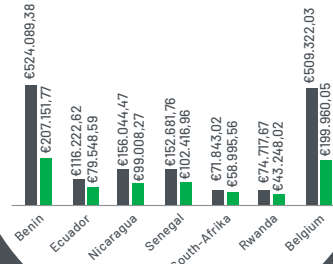
- In **6 villages** - in the partnership between 3 Senegalese municipalities KeMoPoDi - **technical committees were set up and trained in waste management**.



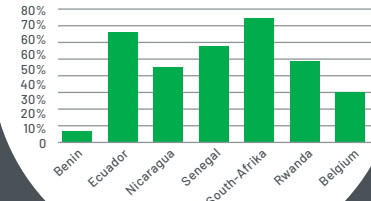
Integrity complaints:
0 complaints



Ratios budget



Consumption



Consumption



Challenges

- After the local elections in Ecuador, it was decided to coordinate the implementation of the programme in Oña for the next few years (2024-2026), directly with the local administration (GAD Parroquial) of Susudel which is closest to the target group and where the needs for support are highest. Proper alignment and coordination between Oña's new municipal technician and the programme coordinator in Susudel is a challenge, for which efforts are currently being made.
- The search for Flemish candidate municipalities for the SDG partnerships proved more intense than expected. It will be a challenge in 2024 to clarify the learning questions for each partnership with administrations in Rwanda and Benin and to take concrete steps in mutual learning.
- The VVSG GLoBe programme ended after 2023 in South Africa. The Essen-Witsenberg, Heist-op-den-Berg and Bergrivier partnerships and sister association SALGA continue to work towards better local waste management.
- In Benin, local governments remain very much in search of a balance after the national reforms. The power of the mayor has greatly diminished and the number of administrative controls and procedures has increased.



Opportunities

- SALGA has been working within GLoBe since 2018 to develop and disseminate a waste app. That app shows citizens where to take their waste and allows citizens to signal waste problems. Through the app, participating local governments strengthen their complaint management, communication to citizens and data collection. SALGA management decided in 2023 to integrate other similar projects on water, roads and electricity into the waste app.
- In Ecuador, they want to encourage better cooperation between the urban drinking water company EMAPAG, on the one hand, and the service UMSA, which supports small, rural communities with water supply, on the other. This would allow water to be offered at a more cheaper rate in these communities. This is because EMAPAG has an economy of scale, allowing water to be offered relatively cheaply.
- The elections in Belgium in 2024 are unmissable momentum for the local anchoring of Agenda 2030. The multi-year plans that Flemish cities and municipalities draw up after these elections are the final direction horizon 2030. In a survey, 60% of local governments say they want to include the SDGs as a central in these. The VVSG will therefore fully commit to tools and inspiration around the SDGs in policy planning.
- VVSG coordinated a Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR). The VSR shows how Flemish cities, municipalities and provinces contribute to the realisation of the SDGs. The data analysis provides a lot of interesting information and material for the environmental analysis that municipalities are drawing up in 2023-2024. The VVSG's proactive approach contributed to the separate chapter on the local translation of the SDGs in the Belgian VNR (Voluntary National Review).



The GLoBe programme helped the municipality of Bergrivier in South Africa set up a very successful waste management programme in Porterville with our partner Heist-op-den-Berg. We joined the GLoBe programme when our City Council was still very young, and it gave us a common goal. We learned together and made a success that we are now rolling out to other parts of our municipality with our own municipal funding. The waste ambassadors trained by the GLoBe programme now act as train-the-trainers and mentors for the new waste ambassadors in Piketberg and Velddrif. We also learnt new skills and expertise thanks to the help of Exchange, Belgium. Municipality of Bergrivier benefited in supporting our good local governance and was awarded as the second best municipality in South Africa in terms of good governance and sixth out of all municipalities (257) in South Africa for 2024. The GLoBe programme has helped us in the maturity of our governance that we did not have before participating in the programme.

Hanlie Linde, municipal manager, Bergrivier (South Africa) partner Heist-op-den-Berg



In 2023, the GLoBe programme enabled us to strengthen the municipal strategy to support the local economy. We were able to identify potential agricultural producers and processors and work with them on a 'business plan' and provide them with seeds and equipment for processing agricultural products. Our support helped build the confidence and knowledge of potential producers, which will make it easier for them to contribute to the development of the municipality.

Blaise Bekakoua, Mayor Toucountouna, Benin



By 2023, the GLoBe programme enabled us to establish and professionalise drinking water councils in eight small villages. There is now an operator who monitors usage, chlorinates the water and is responsible for collecting payments. At the same time, we keep a watchful eye from our municipal service UMSA, by monitoring the data of the water councils and making data available through a digital tool. In 2023, we commissioned a website for this purpose on which the info is available and can be followed up.

Hilda Rochina, Guaranda technical officer

The GLoBe programme is made possible with the support of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGD).



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