

GLOBE 2025

## Highlights and achievements

# DGD Programme



## Introduction



VVSG

In 2025, the VVSG, in collaboration with its partners, began developing a new GLoBe 27-31 programme.

In 2025, the GLoBe programme continued to invest in strong local authorities, both in Flanders and in partner countries. The VVSG supported them in their policy choices regarding sustainable development, citizen participation, the local economy, water management, food policy and waste management. The overarching theme was **institutional embedding**: ensuring that the knowledge gained, the working methods developed and the results achieved are sustainably integrated into local policies and day-to-day operations. This objective is particularly important in the penultimate year of the programme, at a time when international cooperation is facing increasing political and financial pressures.

The **12 partnerships between Flemish municipalities and partner municipalities in the Global South**, as well as cooperation with **four local government associations**, are proving their worth in this context. They are delivering **concrete results**, are based on **relationships of equals** and remain **close to local residents**. Local committees, technical services, women's and youth associations, and other local organisations have continued to build their capacity. **Local authorities in the Global South are thus better equipped to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved and to continue their development.**

In Flanders, too, this commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of results has been central. Through two in-depth SDG programmes with Flemish municipalities and extensive support for its members, the VVSG has provided local authorities with the tools needed to integrate the SDGs into their policies. In many local authorities, the Sustainable Development Goals have thus been incorporated into **the new multi-annual planning**. Choices in favour of sustainable development are therefore increasingly being structurally integrated into local policies in Flanders.





## 2025 in figures

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### An overview of the results

In 2025, the GLoBe mid-term evaluation identified **153 significant changes** in the **Belgian programme** and the **16 partnerships** in the Global South. These changes were identified using the **'Outcome Harvesting'** method.

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#### Belgium: the SDGs in local policies

- **60 per cent** of Flemish municipalities have incorporated the SDGs into their 2026–2031 multi-annual plan, thereby making sustainability an integral part of their day-to-day operations.
  - **93** Flemish local authorities took part in Sustainable Municipality Week, a slight decrease compared with 2024 (111).
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#### Benin

- **Toucountouna – Merelbeke–Melle:** Toucountouna has trained 13 local officials in awareness-raising and tax collection. This initiative has helped to increase **local tax revenue by 12 per cent compared with 2024**. The municipality is thus strengthening its capacity to finance local development using its own resources.
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#### Ecuador

- **Guaranda – Evergem:** **624 families** from six Andean communities received support with integrated water management. **11 water sources** were identified and **36 water committees** were strengthened, thereby contributing to more sustainable and locally-led management of the water supply.
- **Susudel/Oña – Bierbeek:** the population's satisfaction rate with the services provi-

ded by the Las Nieves Chilpa-Susudel irrigation board reached 77 per cent. 44 per cent of water or irrigation committees are chaired by a woman.

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#### Nicaragua

- **Santo Tomás – Mol:** over **70 per cent of the producers surveyed** believe they have improved the management of their businesses thanks to the programme. This professionalisation is also helping to strengthen the local economy: more businesses have been registered, local authority revenue has increased and the marketing of local produce has grown, particularly thanks to the **'Feria del Quesillo'**, a nationally renowned market.
- **Ciudad Darío – Lommel:** **50 producers**, half of whom are women, have benefited from intensive support. This has helped to diversify production, strengthen their organisation, improve food security for families and create new income opportunities. Furthermore, **130 producers have obtained certificates** in areas such as poultry and pig farming, processing, animal feed preparation and entrepreneurship. This knowledge remains firmly rooted locally and enables producers to apply new techniques more independently, particularly in relation to water collection, soil protection and agroecological production.

Senegal

- **Sokone – Zemst:** Sokone has strengthened its planning and monitoring in the areas of waste management and the local economy, whilst involving residents and neighbourhood committees more closely. Today, **78 per cent of households** are connected to the waste collection service, thereby contributing to a cleaner and healthier living environment. The number of economic initiatives supported by the local authority has risen from **20 to 53**, offering more young people and women the opportunity to set up a business and generate an income.
- **KeMoPoDi – Deinze-Lievegem:** with the support of GLoBe, Keur Moussa, Pout and Diender are establishing a structured inter-municipal partnership focused on waste management. The three municipalities have taken formal decisions to this effect and have already funded 40 per cent of their agreed contribution, even though the inter-municipal partnership is not yet legally recognised. In 15 villages and neighbourhoods, 71

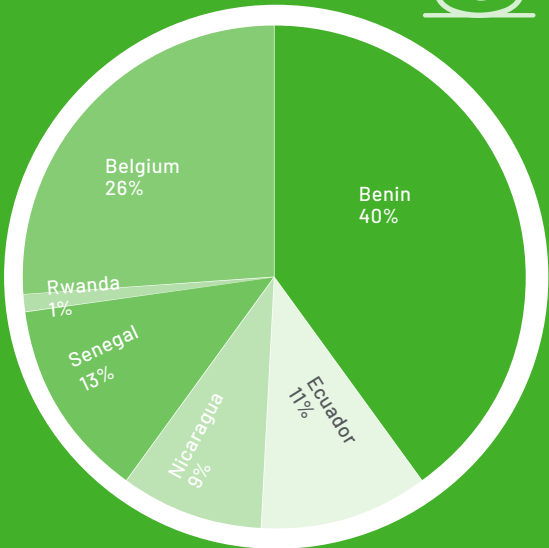
per cent of households are now connected to the waste collection service and 85 per cent of them pay regularly for this service. This revenue enables the local waste management committees to ensure the service runs smoothly and, in the long term, to replace equipment. Women play a central role here: with 87 out of 128 members, they make up the majority of the members of the local waste management committees.

- **Tambacounda – Sint-Niklaas:** horticultural and poultry farming activities coordinated and supported by the local authority have benefited 401 producers, 96 per cent of whom are women. They have also generated tangible income: a total of over 9 million CFA francs.

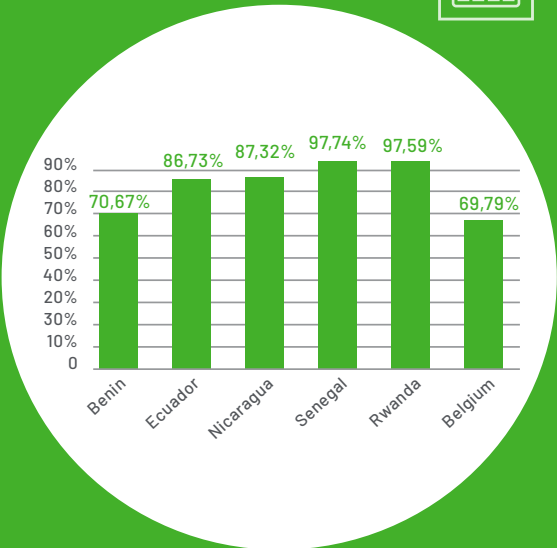


In 2025, integrity was also subject to rigorous monitoring.  
**No complaints relating to integrity were recorded.**

Breakdown of the GLoBe 2025 budget



Percentage of the 2025 budget implemented





## Challenges

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**Rwanda:** following a political decision by the Rwandan government, cooperation with the Association of Local Authorities in Rwanda (RALGA) came to an end in March 2025. The planned study visit to Belgium was therefore unable to take place. Nevertheless, the cooperation with Rwanda provided valuable insights into reciprocity, administrative differences, political risks and the importance of secure communication in international partnerships.



## Opportunities

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- **Belgium:** Following the 2024 local elections, Flemish local authorities drew up their new multi-annual plans in 2025. The VVSG supported them in this process through provincial information sessions, webinars, concrete examples and practical tools to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their planning. The aim was to go beyond simply taking the SDGs into account and to make them **a genuine framework for guiding policy choices, ensuring their monitoring and strengthening cooperation within the municipality.**
- **Conference on the SDGs:** the international conference **'Global Goals, Local Action'** was held in September in Mechelen. It brought together Flemish local authorities, partners from the Global South and international stakeholders to discuss the local implementation of global challenges. This event also raised the political and international profile of the role of local authorities in sustainable development. On this occasion, **94 Flemish local authorities** signed the **'Global Goals, Local Action'** declaration of commitment to the SDGs. In doing so, they pledged to **translate the global sustainable development goals into concrete actions at local level.**
- **Ecuador:** Cooperation between water management stakeholders has been further utilised as a lever to improve water supply services. Experiences of collaboration between urban and rural services have shown that economies of scale, the sharing of technical knowledge and better coordination can help ensure a more affordable and sustainable water supply for local residents.
- **Senegal:** The local technical office **B3P**, integrated into the municipality of Tambacounda, has continued to develop as an in-house centre of expertise responsible for the management, monitoring and support of agricultural projects. This integration within the municipal administration helps to ensure the long-term preservation of the knowledge, methods and experience gained through the projects.

## GLOBe: what concrete changes have been made?

During the mid-term evaluation, we asked the partners not only what activities they had carried out, but above all what changes these had brought about. The exercise proved challenging at times, but was also very rewarding. Together, the partners identified 153 outcomes: changes, both large and small, in behaviours, practices, relationships and the functioning of local authorities. Gradually, the focus thus shifted from the activities themselves to their effects: improved service delivery, greater citizen participation, and local authorities taking greater ownership of their responsibilities. The exercise also showed that a useful activity does not automatically contribute to strengthening local governance. A project may, for example, directly improve residents' quality of life, without its contribution to better local governance being equally obvious. This is precisely where the added value of the evaluation lies: it helps GLOBe to examine more closely the changes brought about by the programme and to focus its work more consciously on results and impact.

Evaluator for GLOBe's mid-term evaluation

## Local authorities give a face to international solidarity

At the SDG conference, Sara Kinsbergen emphasised that international solidarity has not disappeared. It is being put to the test by austerity measures, uncertainties and the concerns of everyday life, but citizens remain willing to get involved when they see that their commitment can make a difference. Local authorities have a particular role to play in this regard. They are close to their residents whilst forging links with communities elsewhere in the world. By building relationships, sharing stories and making cooperation tangible, they give a human face to international solidarity. This then no longer appears as something abstract or distant, but as concrete cooperation between local authorities and between communities.



Sara Kinsbergen, Professor holding a special chair in 'Citizenship and Development Cooperation' at Radboud University in Nijmegen

## Pèrèrè translates global goals into local choices

In Pèrèrè, Benin, the SDGs serve as a guiding principle for local government policy. In this municipality, which comprises 61 villages, they help to identify local needs, set priorities and incorporate them into the municipal development plan. The residents themselves play an active role in this process. Through participatory budgeting, the villages have a say in decisions regarding the investments they consider most important. In Bonrou, this approach has notably led to the creation of a health centre.

"Thanks to GLOBe and the partnership with Anzegem, we are able to better structure and embed this approach. We are learning to plan more effectively, to involve residents in decision-making and to link local initiatives to municipal policy. Good local governance is thus becoming a reality in the daily lives of residents."



Abdoulaye Alassane Nouhoun, former mayor of Pèrèrè, Benin

