

Education, a tool for the sustainable development of children, youth and adults

Education plays an essential role in the sustainable development of children, youth and adults. Indeed, education is about the transmission of culture, knowledge and know-how and is an open door to create opportunities for living better.

At the Givaudan Foundation we support more than 23 very diverse projects in the field of education across 14 countries and we listen to the communities in order to develop programmes that best respond to vulnerable people's needs.

By involving Givaudan employees, these education projects make great examples of Givaudan's purpose in action: "Creating for happier, healthier lives with love for nature. Let's imagine together." in particular through their contribution to the Communities pillar of the Purpose that states that all communities should benefit by working with Givaudan.

In this article, we will highlight four different education initiatives we support, both in communities where Givaudan sources natural ingredients and in communities where Givaudan employees work.

Building a social education centre in Brazil's acerola producing communities

Support for education can include the construction of infrastructure (school buildings, etc.), that is essential for the future of younger generations. As part of a programme to facilitate access to education in acerola producing communities of Brazil, we financed the construction of a social education centre.

When completed by the end of 2021, the centre will comprise a set of standard classrooms, various multifunctional rooms for IT and music as well as a swimming pool. More than 500 children between the age of 7 to 15 years old (many of whom are part of acerola producers' families) will be able to receive schooling on a yearly basis.



Children who are attending extra tutoring classes in the social education centre's part that opened in June 2021.

In addition, the centre also plans to offer English classes, agricultural classes as well as business and entrepreneurship courses for adults. A first part of the centre opened its doors in June 2021, offering school tutoring sessions for students who were not able to attend virtual classes during the lockdown.

Women picking ylang ylang in Comoros learning to succeed as entrepreneurs

In rural areas of the Comoros Islands, the picking of ylang ylang flowers represents an important source of income. Nevertheless, as this activity is restricted

to a few months per year, we support the women pickers in developing alternative sources of income. As most of the women lack the reading, writing and calculation skills to have an independent economic activity or become successful entrepreneurs, the Givaudan Foundation supports them in growing and applying these skills.

During the first phase of the initiative, 100 women participated in a basic literacy and numeracy program. Following the training's completion, a second phase, focusing on entrepreneurship, ensued in 2021.



Bakery training with ylang ylang pickers in Comoros.

The participants who successfully developed a sound and promising business plan were able to secure start-up funding and support in planning and implementing their project. As an example, two bakeries run by six women now supply fresh bread to the residents of the villages of Barakani and Hamavuna.

Teaching women in Colombia how to make and sell fragranced items

The Givaudan Green Team Colombia joined forces with a local NGO specialized in the socio-economic development of vulnerable families. Together, and with the support of the Givaudan Foundation, they launched an initiative to help a group of women improve their livelihood through the manufacturing and commercialization of fragranced items. Givaudan volunteers give technical training on how

to make items such as glycerin soap or floor cleaning products.



Givaudan Colombia volunteers with training participants during a technical training.

They also provide basic entrepreneurship and business insights to ensure that the women are able to launch their small business after the training's completion. At the end of the course, the participants have the opportunity to present a business plan to the partner NGO in order to obtain funding to start their activity.

Scented stories as a learning tool for visually-impaired students in Thailand

Finally, in Thailand, the Givaudan Foundation supports an initiative which uses Givaudan's expertise in fragrances as its best advantage. Givaudan volunteers created a set of 37 samples each with a different scent, such as bathroom cleaner, dirty laundry, burned food, gas leakage etc.



One of the scented book developed for this initiative.

The scents accompany tailor-made books containing short stories aiming to teach visually-impaired students in a fun and interactive way how to recognise certain smells and deal with them. The course is currently being implemented and tested as a pilot class in two schools for the blind in Thailand. Givaudan volunteers will participate in activities with the students, for instance in workshops about storytelling through scents and scent design.

Despite challenges due to COVID-19, education projects carried on throughout 2021 with strict hygiene protocols in place. This has been possible thanks to the strong ties we have maintained with our local partners and the motivation of Givaudan volunteers to continuously support communities around them.

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