

**2025: A year of renewal
and climate-smart action**



About us

Rural Environment and Development Organization (REDO) was founded in 1999 to address environmental degradation while empowering rural communities, especially the most vulnerable. Our early efforts focused on communities living near Rwanda's protected areas, helping residents secure land, develop small livestock projects, and decrease their reliance on surrounding forests.

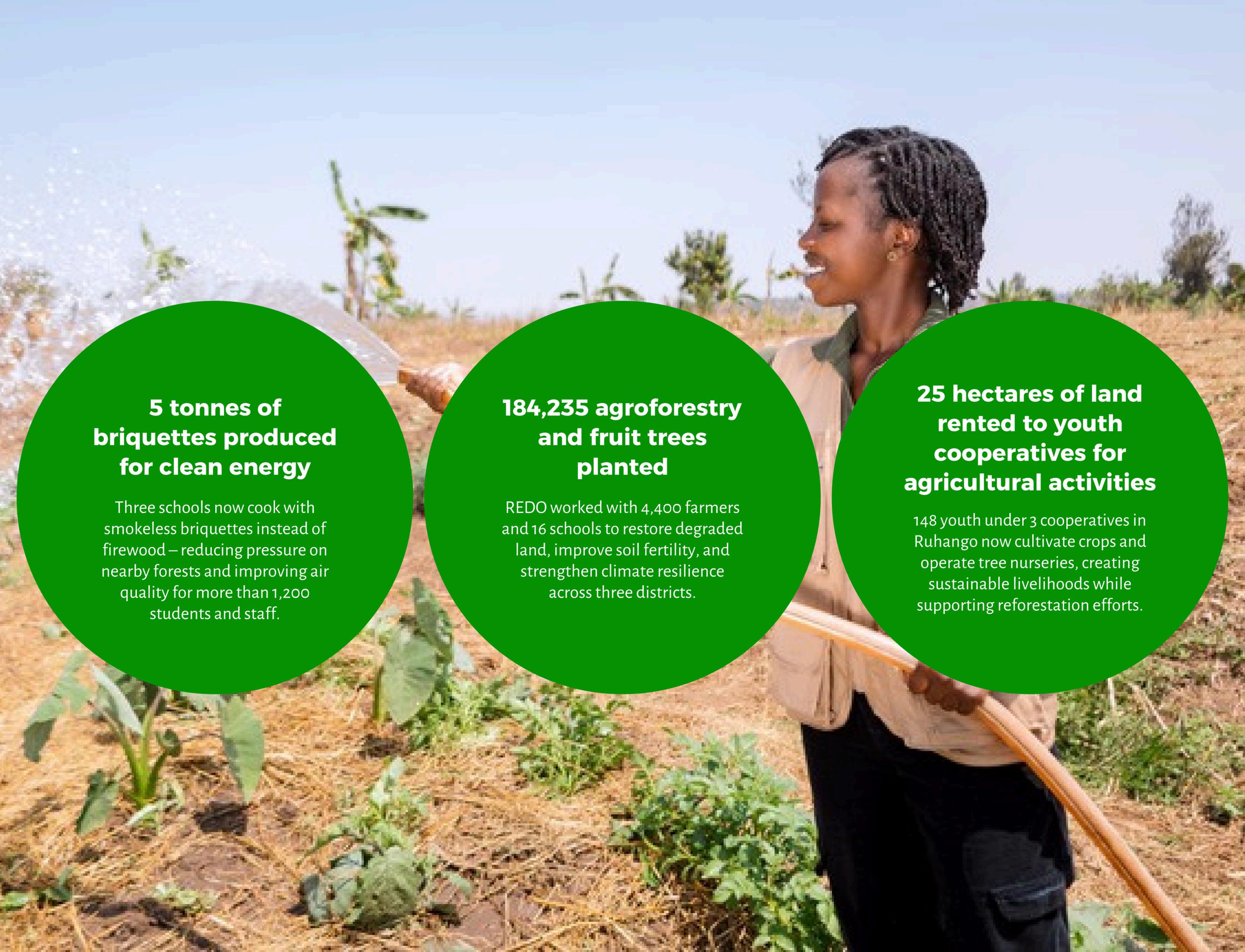
Over time, we broadened our work to address interconnected challenges, including poverty, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable land management. This evolution led to a range of community-based initiatives, including beekeeping, handicraft production, tree planting, improved cookstove adoption, soil conservation techniques, water harvesting practices, and climate-smart agriculture, all aimed at improving livelihoods while safeguarding the environment.

We also partner with communities, helping them generate income while reducing reliance on forests and wetlands. In regions like Kirehe, Rusizi, Bugesera, and Ruhango, we distributed energy-efficient cookstoves and promoted solar irrigation and agroforestry, supporting people to restore degraded land into productive, climate-resilient farms.

We believe that placing strong focus on environmental education, community awareness, and locally driven conservation, and making these efforts the foundation of protecting nature, demonstrates how community engagement can generate meaningful, nationally significant conservation outcomes.

2025 in Numbers





**5 tonnes of
briquettes produced
for clean energy**

Three schools now cook with smokeless briquettes instead of firewood – reducing pressure on nearby forests and improving air quality for more than 1,200 students and staff.

**184,235 agroforestry
and fruit trees
planted**

REDO worked with 4,400 farmers and 16 schools to restore degraded land, improve soil fertility, and strengthen climate resilience across three districts.

**25 hectares of land
rented to youth
cooperatives for
agricultural activities**

148 youth under 3 cooperatives in Ruhango now cultivate crops and operate tree nurseries, creating sustainable livelihoods while supporting reforestation efforts.



16 hectares of land restored through radical and progressive terrace

Using radical (14 ha) and progressive (2 ha) terraces, REDO rehabilitated highly eroded land, boosting soil retention, fertility, and productivity for 60 farming households.

18 community mobilizers trained on tree supervision and maintenance

The 18 Tree Ambassadors serve as local guardians and technical guides, ensuring the success and sustainability of tree-planting initiatives by caring for seedlings, protecting them from damage or pests, pruning as needed, and advising community members on proper tree management.

Cleaner Cooking-Greener Communities: Briquettes Bringing Change to Schools and Communities

Many schools in rural Rwanda rely on firewood for cooking. This exposes students to harmful smoke that can lead to respiratory illnesses and contributes to deforestation and environmental degradation in nearby forests. Teachers and students were struggling to prepare meals safely, affecting school attendance and learning.

This year, REDO provided 5 tonnes of eco-friendly briquettes to 3 schools in Kirehe district under the project “Strengthening Mahama Refugees and Host Community’s Capacity to Enhance Low Carbon Technologies and Climate Resilient Worth Solutions for Livelihood Improvement in Kirehe.” The briquettes are a low-smoke, sustainable energy alternative to firewood, reducing both indoor air pollution and pressure on local forests. Once the schools began using the briquettes, cooking became safer, faster, and cleaner. Students and staff noticed immediate improvements in air quality inside kitchens and dining areas.

More than 1,200 students now benefit from a healthier school environment. This intervention reduces exposure to smoke-related health risks and contributes to forest conservation in the surrounding area. Schools are now models for clean energy adoption in the district.

"Since introducing briquettes in our school, we have seen a remarkable change. Our students and staff are no longer exposed to harmful smoke from traditional firewood, and it has greatly reduced our reliance on cutting trees. The classrooms and kitchens are now healthier, and our school is contributing to environmental conservation while saving on fuel costs. This simple change has had a big impact on both health and sustainability." Said Jean Paul Twizerimana, Head Teacher at EP Ibanda.

Briquettes play a key role in reducing pressure on forests by offering an alternative to firewood and charcoal. They help combat deforestation and land degradation because they are made from recycled agricultural waste. In our case, we use rice husks. The community has responded well to these clean cooking options. They are cheaper and easy for anyone to use. We are ready to increase production and raise more awareness about their benefits.



From Land to Livelihoods: Youth Lead a Greener Future

Young people in rural areas face high unemployment and lack access to land for income-generating activities. Many are unable to contribute meaningfully to their households or communities.

We distributed 19 goats to 19 youth, and rented 25 hectares of land to 148 youth grouped into 3 cooperatives (Green Ntongwe Youth Cooperative, Ruhango Itoshye Youth Cooperative, and Cooperative Abishyizehamwe Kinazi). The youth are using the land for agricultural activities, mainly producing tree seedlings for reforestation, cassava plantation, and agroforestry projects. By owning the goats, they have begun managing livestock and earning income related to that. They're also now producing tree seedlings, gaining practical skills in entrepreneurship and cooperative leadership, and generating income while supporting reforestation initiatives.

Through these efforts, young people are gaining economic independence and skills for sustainable livelihoods. The seedlings produced are used to restore the environment, creating both income and ecological benefits. The intervention also strengthened community cohesion through cooperative work.

**"Being part of this cooperative has changed my life. With the land we were given to grow crops and manage our tree nursery, I've learned skills I never had before. Receiving a goat has given me an additional source of income and hope. I feel more confident and empowered because I can support myself while helping restore our environment. This project hasn't just improved our land, it has improved our lives."
Davide Mpagazekubwayo.**

"I feel proud knowing that the work I do is benefiting the environment and securing a future for my children. Most of the trees planted in the schools and community nearby here come from the seedlings we produce in our nursery." Egide Hategekimana



From Erosion to Opportunity: Landscape Restoration through Terracing in Rusizi District



Soil erosion and degraded landscapes in Rusizi District were limiting agricultural productivity, causing poor harvests, and threatening food security. Farmers struggled to maintain fertile land during heavy rains.

This year, REDO restored 16 hectares of land using radical and progressive terracing under the Lake Kivu Belt Sustainable Conservation Project. Farmers received hands-on training in terracing techniques and ongoing technical support to ensure proper implementation. As terraces were completed, local farmers observed significant reductions in soil erosion and improved water retention. Crops started growing better, and community interest in terracing spread to neighboring households.

The results were significant: 60 households experienced higher crop yields, 500 green jobs were created, and degraded land was rehabilitated for sustainable agriculture by planting trees.

"These terraces have transformed my life in ways I can hardly measure. All three hectares of my land are now terraced, and I was involved in the work from the very beginning, where I was hired to dig terraces, which gave me a steady income at a time when I needed it most. The project has strengthened both my farm and my livelihood. The soil no longer washes away, and with the trees planted along the terraces, my land is becoming fertile again. I'm proud to be part of an effort that supports my family while protecting our environment," said Venuste Nambajimana, a landowner.

"Working on digging the terraces has been a big help for my family and me. I earned a steady income while contributing to protecting the land from erosion. It feels good to know that the work I did will make the soil fertile again and help future crops grow." Beatrice Mujawabera

Looking Ahead to 2026

Expanding Community Impact

In 2026, REDO will deepen its commitment to community-led restoration and climate-smart livelihoods across our target districts. We aim to reach more than 7,000 additional people, with a strong focus on supporting youth, women, and smallholder farmers to build resilient, thriving landscapes.

Growing the Tree Cover

Our plans include planting over 150,000 new fruit and agroforestry trees to restore soil fertility, prevent erosion, and improve household nutrition. We will create 1,000 green jobs by expanding tree nurseries, restoration works, and sustainable agriculture enterprises; this will strengthen both incomes and ecosystems.



Scaling Climate-Smart Farming

To scale climate-smart farming, we will install irrigation systems on 15 hectares, enabling year-round production and reducing vulnerability to drought. We also plan to introduce briquettes in two more schools, cutting firewood use, improving indoor air quality, and reducing pressure on local forests.

Strengthening Community Ownership

All of this work will be grounded in community empowerment, practical training, and close monitoring. This will ensure that every activity contributes to long-lasting environmental and livelihood gains.

Together, we will continue transforming landscapes and the lives of the people who depend on them.

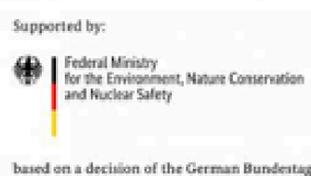




Thank You

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, donors, and volunteers for their incredible support throughout 2025. Your commitment, passion, and belief in our mission have driven every achievement we celebrate today.

Together, we strengthened communities, restored landscapes and created new opportunities for families who depend on nature for their livelihoods. Every milestone reached, every field restored, every tree planted, and every life improved is a direct result of your generosity and dedication. Your support has enabled us to implement meaningful projects, respond to community needs, and bring real and lasting change where it is needed most. Thank you!



People for development

