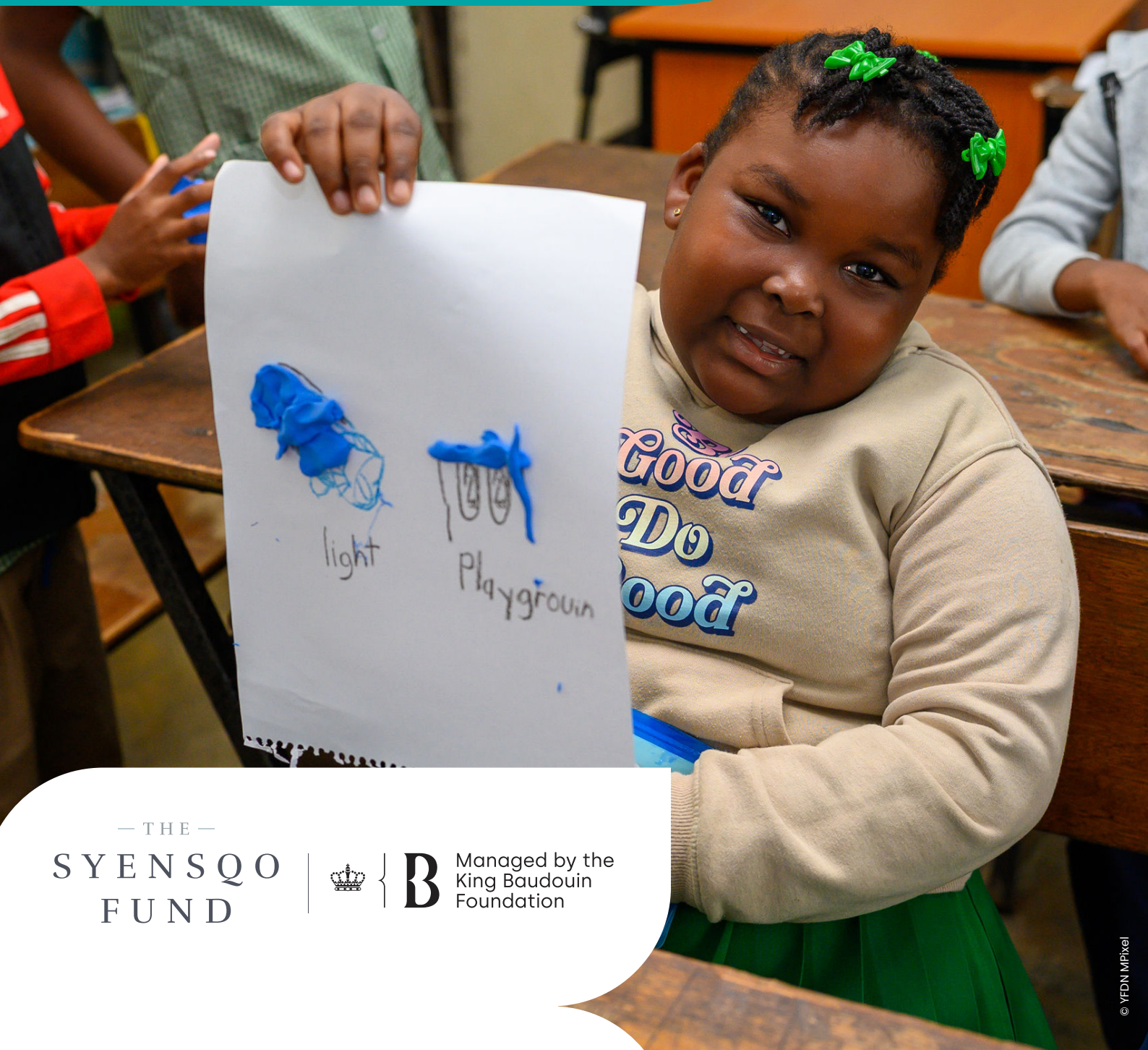


Driving Positive Change Together

The Syensqo Fund Activity & Impact Report 2025



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SYENSQO
FUND



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Building Lasting Impact

Rooted in our founder Ernest Solvay's enduring commitment to science and society, the Syensqo Fund embodies our belief that scientific progress should serve humanity. Philanthropy is an integral part of Syensqo's purpose, complementing our sustainability ambitions and reflecting our conviction that progress only matters when it creates a meaningful impact.

In 2025, this mission guided every initiative we supported, turning our values into tangible social and environmental outcomes and leading us to celebrate several meaningful milestones. The Sustainable Guar Initiative reached its ten-year mark, empowering farmers in Rajasthan, strengthening cooperatives, and advancing women's leadership. Climate Impulse continued to demonstrate how ingenuity can address climate challenges and inspire younger generations.

Innovation remained at the heart of our work through support for the International Solvay Institutes, the ULB-VUB Syensqo Awards, and new projects such as IMAQA, which unite exploration and education in extreme environments. In education, partnerships with TADA, True Blue 1881, and EWHA Womans University expanded opportunities for students to pursue STEM careers and overcome barriers to success.

Solidarity also guided our actions in the face of urgent needs - from the California wildfires to Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica - alongside continued support for employees experiencing hardship.

As the Fund looks ahead, we remain committed to connecting science, education, innovation and solidarity to create opportunities and build lasting impact for communities around the world. Guided by the same spirit of collaboration and purpose that has shaped our journey so far, Syensqo and the Syensqo Fund will continue to strengthen and expand this impact for generations to come.

The Syensqo Fund

Mission, Impact & Governance

The Syensqo Fund turns purpose into meaningful action. As Syensqo's philanthropic vehicle, its mission is to create lasting positive impact by supporting initiatives that improve lives, empower communities, and protect the planet.

1 **We protect the planet** by supporting initiatives that conserve resources, reduce emissions, and promote sustainable practices. Our aim is to create a cleaner, healthier world for generations to come.

2 **We nurture innovation** by funding scientific research and collaborations that tackle society's most pressing challenges. Our goal is to drive breakthroughs that improve lives and open new possibilities for a better future.

3 **We foster education** by helping young talents explore, learn, and grow, especially in STEM fields. Our aim is to empower the pioneers of tomorrow and give every child the opportunity to shape the future.

4 **We support solidarity** by standing alongside employees and communities facing hardship. Our goal is to build stronger, more resilient communities where everyone feels supported, valued, and connected.



Governance

The Fund is overseen by a dedicated management committee and administered by King Baudouin Foundation (KBF), combining transparency, accountability, and social impact expertise. Each initiative is carefully evaluated to ensure alignment with the Fund's mission and pillars. In December 2025, the Syensqo Fund launched its donation platform through Myriad and King Baudouin Foundation. Employees and external donors can now contribute from 35 countries, with tax deductions available in certain regions.

2025 Highlights

2025 was a year of significant progress across the four pillars of the Syensqo Fund:

Protecting the Planet

In October in Brussels, Bertrand Piccard and the **Climate Impulse team** set the tone for bold climate ambition, as they shared their vision of a hydrogen-powered round-the-world flight, demonstrating that sustainable aviation is an achievable reality. That same month in Rajasthan, the **Sustainable Guar Initiative** celebrated its 10-year anniversary, marking a decade of tangible progress in income growth and women's empowerment, and our commitment to building a sustainable and inclusive guar ecosystem.



Nurturing Innovation

In February, **Prof. Laura Gagliardi, Syensqo Chair in Chemistry at the International Solvay Institutes**, visited Syensqo's headquarters to share her insights on computational chemistry. This spirit of discovery continued in April with the **IMAQA conference** in Brussels, where a new grant-supported initiative was launched to expand research in extreme environments, inspire young minds, and raise awareness of environmental challenges. By October, innovation was both celebrated and recognized: the **ULB-VUB Syensqo Awards** honored PhD graduates tackling societal challenges through STEM, while, in that same month, former Ernest Solvay Prize laureates Susumu Kitagawa and Omar Yaghi received the **2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**—powerfully illustrating the Fund's enduring impact on scientific progress.



Fostering Education

Education remained a hands-on commitment throughout the year. In January, Syensqo volunteers joined students at the **TADA** weekend school in Brussels, offering practical STEM learning and mentorship. This momentum continued in February at Spelman College, where **True Blue 1881** scholars explored STEM pathways and connected with Syensqo employees at Aphareta (USA).

Supporting Solidarity

When communities faced hardship, the Fund responded swiftly. Emergency relief followed the **California wildfires** in January and **Hurricane Melissa** in Jamaica in October, providing timely support to those affected.





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Protecting the Planet

Climate Impulse

Making zero-emission air travel dreams a reality

Climate Impulse is pioneering hydrogen-powered aviation, aiming for a non-stop, nine-day, round-the-world flight. The project combines technology, environmental responsibility, and human ingenuity, showing that sustainable solutions are achievable even in difficult-to-decarbonize sectors.

Now in its second year, the project is making significant progress in aircraft design and in confirming the feasibility of its flight. These advances are bringing the ambition of short-term hydrogen aviation closer to reality and reinforcing the belief that zero-emission air travel is within reach, sending a strong and hopeful signal to future generations that sustainable solutions are possible.

Led by Bertrand Piccard and Raphaël Dinelli, the project is supported by a dedicated task force linking innovation to education and environmental awareness.





Sustainable Guar Initiative

Celebrating 10 years of shared prosperity

In 2025, the Sustainable Guar Initiative (SGI) marked ten years of impact in Rajasthan, India. Over 13,000 farmers, including 30% women, across 62 villages, have strengthened their livelihoods through training in sustainable farming practices, cooperative management, and income diversification.

The initiative is implemented on the ground with the support of TechnoServe, an international non-profit organization dedicated to helping people in developing countries reduce poverty by building stronger, more resilient livelihoods. Through this collaboration, farmers receive training, resources, and support that help them adopt more sustainable agricultural practices while improving long-term economic stability.

During a visit to Rajasthan, Dr. Ilham Kadri (Syensqo CEO, 2019-2025), alongside the Belgian Ambassador and local partners, met farmers and women leaders whose growing confidence and entrepreneurship reflect the initiative's lasting impact. SGI connects environmental responsibility with social progress. Over the past decade, the initiative has helped double income from guar cultivation, improve water access, and enhance nutrition and education within farming communities.

This anniversary year was an opportunity to reflect on how far the communities have come and to look ahead with renewed ambition.



© IMCA expeditions



Nurturing **Innovation**

The International Solvay Institutes

Advancing curiosity-driven research

The International Solvay Institutes are the direct descendants of the Institutes for Physics and Chemistry founded by Ernest Solvay in the early 20th century. At the heart of their mission are the renowned Solvay Conferences, which have brought together some of the world's most brilliant scientific minds for over a century.

Beyond the Conferences, the Institutes support workshops, international chairs, colloquia, and an international doctoral school, while also promoting the popularization of science through annual Horizon Lectures dedicated to today's major scientific challenges.

Among these initiatives is the Syensqo Chair in Chemistry, an academic chair that strengthens the link between industry and fundamental research. In 2025, the Chair was awarded to Prof. Laura Gagliardi (University of Chicago), whose pioneering work in computational chemistry and materials science exemplifies the spirit of innovation that unites Syensqo and the Institutes. Her research contributes to advancing fundamental knowledge across chemistry and related disciplines, helping lay the scientific foundations for future breakthroughs.

ULB-VUB Syensqo Awards

Celebrating tomorrow's scientific leaders

The **ULB-VUB Syensqo Awards** support emerging researchers and reflect our long-standing commitment to encouraging young scientific talent. More than recognition, these awards are an investment in the next generation of scientists whose ideas and determination will help shape a more sustainable world. Alongside scientific excellence, the ability to communicate research clearly and connect it to real-world impact remains a key criterion, reinforcing the belief that science serves society.

In 2025, we honored five PhD laureates from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).





© Fabrice Debatty

The award ceremony celebrating both the 2024 and 2025 laureates was held in October 2025 during the Public Lectures, an open event organized by the Solvay Institutes that gathers together scientists of the highest level.

ECIS Syensqo Award

The **ECIS Syensqo Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to colloid and interface science, highlighting researchers whose work advances both knowledge and practical solutions. By encouraging collaboration and applied research, the award supports innovation that benefits industry and communities alike. The 2025 laureate is Professor Raffaele Mezzenga of ETH Zurich, recognized for his pioneering research on protein self-assembly and the interactions of proteins with metals and environmental contaminants.

Now more than ever, science is our best option for confronting the challenges we face. By providing an objective framework for dialogue and discovery, science helps resolve conflicts and drives collective advancement



THOMAS CANOVA
HEAD OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION, SYENSQO

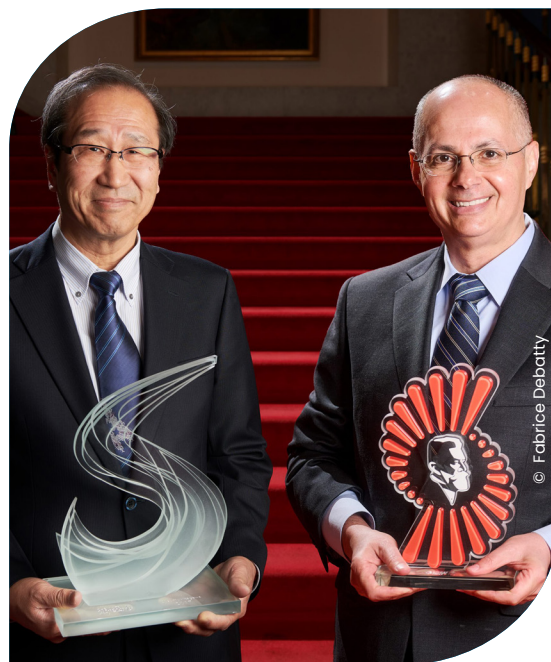


Fondation Jean-Marie Lehn Advancing Chemistry Innovation

Through grants to the **Fondation Jean-Marie Lehn**, the Syensqo Fund supports three PhD talents who are driving innovation in chemistry. By encouraging collaboration between academia and industry, these grants help accelerate discoveries that address pressing societal and environmental challenges.

Ernest Solvay Prize by Syensqo Honoring Pioneers in Chemistry

By celebrating and supporting pioneering researchers since 2013, the Ernest Solvay Prize accelerates innovation, fuels new scientific advancements, and reinforces the crucial role of chemistry in addressing global challenges. Continuing to honor transformative chemistry research, the Prize saw its long-term impact highlighted in 2025 when previous laureates Professors Susumu Kitagawa and Omar Yaghi received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The Prize is awarded every two years, with the next edition in 2026.



IMAQA

Explore, research, and educate

IMAQA builds bridges between exploration and science to advance research in some of the world's most extreme environments. IIMAQA functions as a specialized provider of scientific field services in extreme environments, particularly in polar regions, where access remains one of the greatest challenges in climate research. By enabling the collection of critical field data and supporting scientists working under demanding conditions, the initiative helps open new pathways for environmental research.

Beyond research, IMAQA plays an essential role in communication and education. In 2025, its outreach efforts brought climate science to students and wider audiences through hands-on workshops rooted in real-world scientific challenges. Across 2024–2025, more than 1,500 students from the Brussels region (Belgium) participated in these activities, helping young people connect scientific knowledge with pressing environmental issues.

The documentary *“Something in the Water”* offered a powerful visual insight into Greenland’s supraglacial lakes and the hidden processes shaping our planet’s climate, translating complex research into accessible storytelling that raises awareness and encourages informed action.

By combining scientific exploration, education, and communication, IMAQA strengthens climate research, supports environmental conservation, and inspires young people to pursue futures in science and engineering. Its impact reaches far beyond the field, connecting knowledge with society.

We're thrilled to have the support of the Syensqo Fund, as we believe lasting change starts with shared commitments and values. Together, we champion a new kind of exploration that educates and inspires — as explorers that conquer hearts, rather than land.



GILLES DENIS
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO OF IMAQA





Fostering Education

TADA

Empowering youth to shape their future

TADA, short for ToekomstAtelierDelAvenir, is a learning network that brings together citizens, civil society, and businesses to offer intensive coaching support for the emancipation of Brussels' teenagers from socially vulnerable backgrounds. The Fund supports a class of 26 students across 79 program days over three years. Every Saturday, more than 800 children explore careers in around 27 sectors via practical workshops voluntarily led by passionate professionals.

Additionally, Syensqo employees from Brussels's headquarters volunteer at TADA, teaching STEM and career-focused workshops. This approach equips students with practical skills, confidence, and opportunities to pursue higher education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

True Blue 1881

Breaking barriers to graduation

True Blue 1881 addresses barriers faced by students at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia (USA), with a mission to eliminate food, shelter, and financial insecurities for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by providing scholarship and mentorship. Through True Blue 1881, the Syensqo Fund awards scholarships to STEM majors at Spelman College; in 2025, five scholarships were granted based on academic merit and financial need. The initiative advances diversity, equity, and inclusion while connecting scholars with Syensqo's Alpharetta site.





EWHA

Supporting the next generation of female scientists

The Syensqo Fund nurtures the next generation of female scientists by awarding six two-year scholarships each year to outstanding students at EWHA Womans University in Seoul, South Korea. Founded in 1886, EWHA has long been committed to expanding educational opportunities for women and fostering female leaders who contribute to a more innovative and sustainable society.

Since the launch of this initiative in 2012, 69 scholarships have been awarded across 20 major departments, spanning STEM as well as humanities and social sciences. The program has also extended its reach to international students from developing countries, including Vietnam and Malaysia, broadening access to education and strengthening global inclusion.

Beyond financial support, the EWHA-Syensqo Research & Innovation Center helps expand academic networks and encourage collaboration in key scientific fields. By removing financial barriers and providing long-term encouragement, the scholarships allow talented young women to focus fully on their academic and research ambitions.

Through this sustained commitment, the Fund contributes to reducing gender disparities in higher education and empowering women to pursue careers in science and innovation.

The program has given me the confidence and motivation to pursue meaningful research. The Scholarship Community further connects scholars from diverse disciplines, creating opportunities to share experiences and inspire one another.



SIYEON LEE
EWHA SCHOLAR 2025





© YFDN MPixel



Supporting Solidarity

Standing together in times of need

The solidarity pillar reflects a strong commitment to supporting communities and colleagues in times of crisis. The Fund prioritizes assistance to communities around Syensqo sites and mobilizes support quickly when emergencies occur.

In 2025, this commitment translated into targeted action in response to major natural disasters. In California, one of the most destructive wildfire seasons in recent history swept through Los Angeles, particularly affecting Palisades and Altadena, destroying more than 16,500 buildings and causing tragic loss of life. The Syensqo Fund's support enabled the Center for Disaster Philanthropy to provide critical funding to organizations leading rebuilding efforts in the most affected communities, helping lay the foundations for recovery and long-term resilience.

Later in the year, Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica with devastating force, displacing thousands of families, damaging critical infrastructure and leaving many in urgent need of support. In response, the Syensqo Fund supported the Youth for Development Network (YFDN) in delivering a comprehensive intervention spanning immediate relief and long-term recovery. This included the provision of urgent supplies, efforts to strengthen household resilience, support for school recovery, and the creation of psychosocial pathways to help children and caregivers begin healing from the traumatic effects of the hurricane.

Through these actions, the Fund directed relief where it was most needed, helping communities rebuild, recover and regain stability after profound shocks.

The Solidarity pillar continues to restore hope, strengthen resilience and reinforce a shared commitment to stand together in life's most challenging moments.

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