



BIOCULTURE
CARES



GRANTEE CONNECT II

30 July 2026

Le Battelage, Souillac

ABOUT GRANTEE CONNECT



Convened by Bioculture Cares, Grantee Connect is a collaborative space for our grant recipients to meet, exchange, and harness the collective strength of their diverse perspectives. While we provide the platform, the space belongs entirely to the grantees. It offers a rare opportunity to step outside daily project imperatives and reflect on the broader social impact we want to achieve as a society. By discussing the national public discourse alongside field realities, Grantee Connect empowers our network to move beyond isolated interventions toward systemic, evidence-based approaches that improve the well-being of vulnerable populations.

WHO WAS IN THE ROOM?

82 attendees across five grantee and partner categories

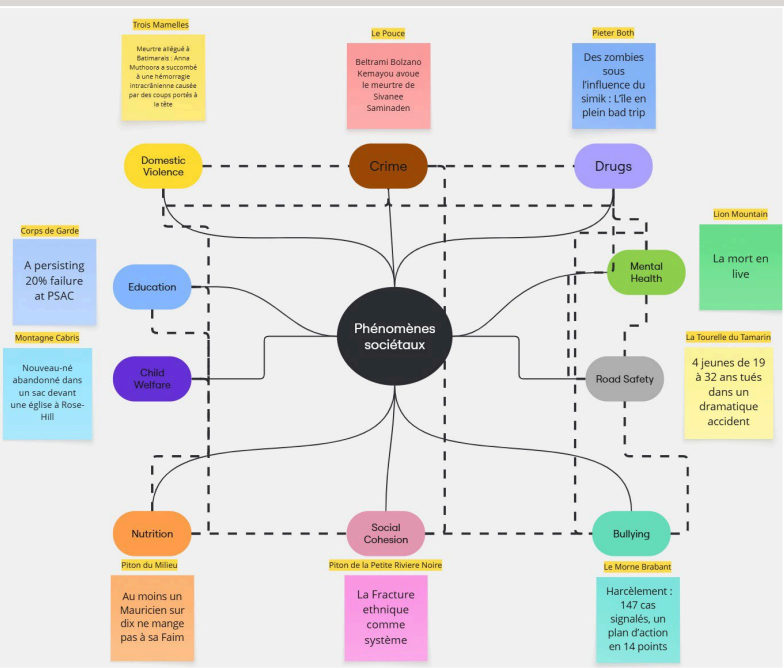


Bubble area is proportional to the number of attendees

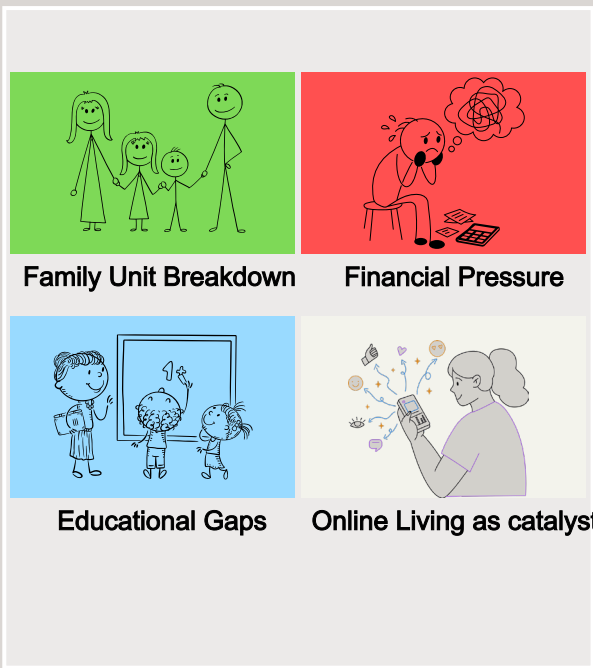
Connecting the dots from media headlines to social structures

The second Bioculture Cares Grantee Connect convened 82 participants from 44 organisations to build directly upon the discussions that took place during the first grantee connect in January 2026.

In our first forum, we established that the social issues making daily headlines—from child welfare to substance use—are not isolated incidents, but symptoms of interconnected systemic failures. We identified four root causes: the fragility of family support, the survival economy, fragmented education, and digital/media influences.



Headlines discussed during Grantee Connect I, January 2026



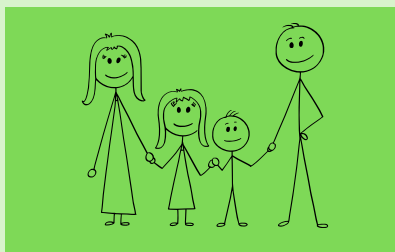
Structural Factors discussed during Grantee Connect II, July 2026

Discussion Summary: A look at National Statistics

For this second session, we layered macro-level national statistics over three of these root causes (Family, Economy, and Education) to answer a defining question: What must we do differently as social impact actors to effectively improve the well-being of vulnerable populations and, by extension, drive the socio-economic development of the region?

What We Must Do Differently

When participants mapped national data against their daily realities, a clear consensus emerged: improving well-being requires us to adapt our intervention models away from outdated assumptions. To be more effective, participants suggested the following operational shifts:

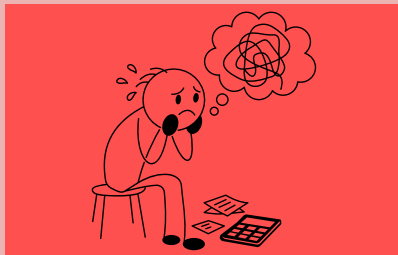


From "Nuclear Family" to "Responsive Family" Support

The Reality: The traditional nuclear family is no longer the default. National census data shows a 31% rise in people living alone and a 26% rise in one-parent households. Furthermore, homes are now more likely to be structured around an aging population than around raising children. Grantees confirmed this translates to isolated single parents and youth being raised by grandparents, leading to what was termed "parental resignation" due to compounding daily pressures.

The Shift: We must stop designing programmes that assume traditional family availability. Interventions must actively target new family structures by providing low-barrier support for single parents, building parenting capacity from an early age, and designing parallel programmes that support both children and their caregivers simultaneously.

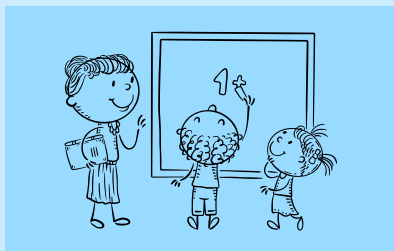
Discussion Summary: A look at National Statistics



From "Poverty Alleviation" to "Financial Literacy"

The Reality: While relative poverty has dropped to 7.3%, household spending on health (+88%), food (+46%), and insurance (+171%) has surged, and reliance on social transfers is growing faster than wages. Grantees noted that this economic pressure creates a "survival mindset" that sacrifices long-term well-being and educational investment for immediate needs, while increasing vulnerability to debt and substance use

The Shift: Treating poverty solely through direct aid is insufficient. We must embed structured financial literacy and prioritisation coaching into all community programmes. This includes building the capacity of frontline social workers to confidently guide vulnerable families through debt management and financial decision-making

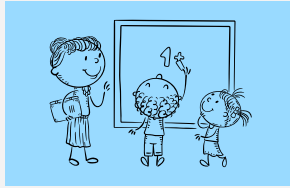
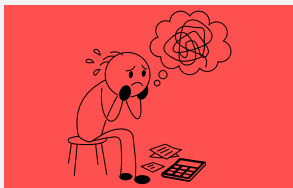
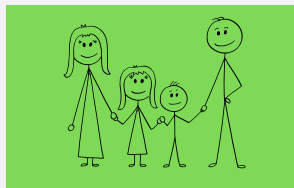


From "School Attendance" to "Reaching the Disconnected"

The Reality: Although the number of children out of school has halved, youth unemployment is creeping into older brackets (ages 25–29). While national data shows 40% of youth aged 20–24 are not economically active, the true concern is not the segment that is studying. The problem lies with those who are completely disconnected from both education and employment. Alarmingly, over 20,000 youth now fall into the "unknown/not stated" category for their daily activities. Grantees confirmed a harsh field reality regarding this hidden demographic: many of these unaccounted-for youths are falling into the illicit economy, engaging in drug dealing, sex work, and other high-risk survival behaviors.

The Shift: We must pivot from focusing solely on basic educational access to actively identifying and engaging disconnected youth. This requires targeted outreach to pull vulnerable populations away from illicit economies, coupled with heavy investments in mentorship, career guidance, and practical skills training that connects them to legitimate workforce pathways.

Discussion Summary: A look at National Statistics



Centering Self-Esteem and Emotional Literacy

“Enn dimoune ki kapav met so mo lor so resenti, li kapav met so mo lor so bidze”

-Grantee Connect II participant

The Reality: The most universally echoed barrier across all groups was a profound lack of self-esteem among vulnerable populations. Without self-worth, youth are highly susceptible to peer pressure and disengagement, while parents feel disempowered to enact change in their households

The Shift: Self-esteem and emotional resilience can no longer be a secondary byproduct of our programmes—they must be the primary objective. We need to normalise emotional support, create safe recreational spaces, and ensure every initiative is fundamentally designed to empower the individual



CONCLUSION

The second Grantee Connect built on the first forum by using national data on family structures, financial pressures and education-to-work transitions to deepen the discussion on shared social challenges. The exchanges highlighted the value of bringing field realities into conversation with wider trends—and of making space to consider what may need to change in response.

One clear issue was the data gap. While national statistics provide broad context, we lack in-depth data on our own constituents. We cannot effectively tailor our support without knowing exactly who we serve. Strengthening consistent data collection across projects and programmes could therefore be a useful shared priority, enabling more informed and responsive interventions.

