



BIOCULTURE
CARES



***2026 Grassroot Grant
Mid-Year Report***

Objective 2

Higher levels of socio-economic development in the southern regions of Mauritius.



The grassroot grant is only available for initiatives in the south of Mauritius. However, it is also open to informal networks, schools and local government. With our Community Development Programme, the Grassroot Grant is intended to contribute to Objective 2 of Bioculture Cares. The 2026 Cohort consists of 25 grantees, of which two were project grant applicants that have been reclassified.

73 eligible applications



31 NGOS



19 Individuals



19 Schools



3 Local Government



2 Community Based Orgs

23 Selected (32 %)

➡ 13 (42 %)

➡ 4 (21 %)

➡ 5 (36 %)

➡ 0 (0 %)

➡ 1 (50%)

+ 2 reclassified Project Grant Applicants

Existing Grantees :

~60% of 2025 Grassroot Grantees re-applied in the same category. 12 of the 23 selected grantees for 2026 (52%) are 2025 grantees

Selection Criteria



Innovation



Relevance



Inclusivity



Sustainability

Activities Implemented

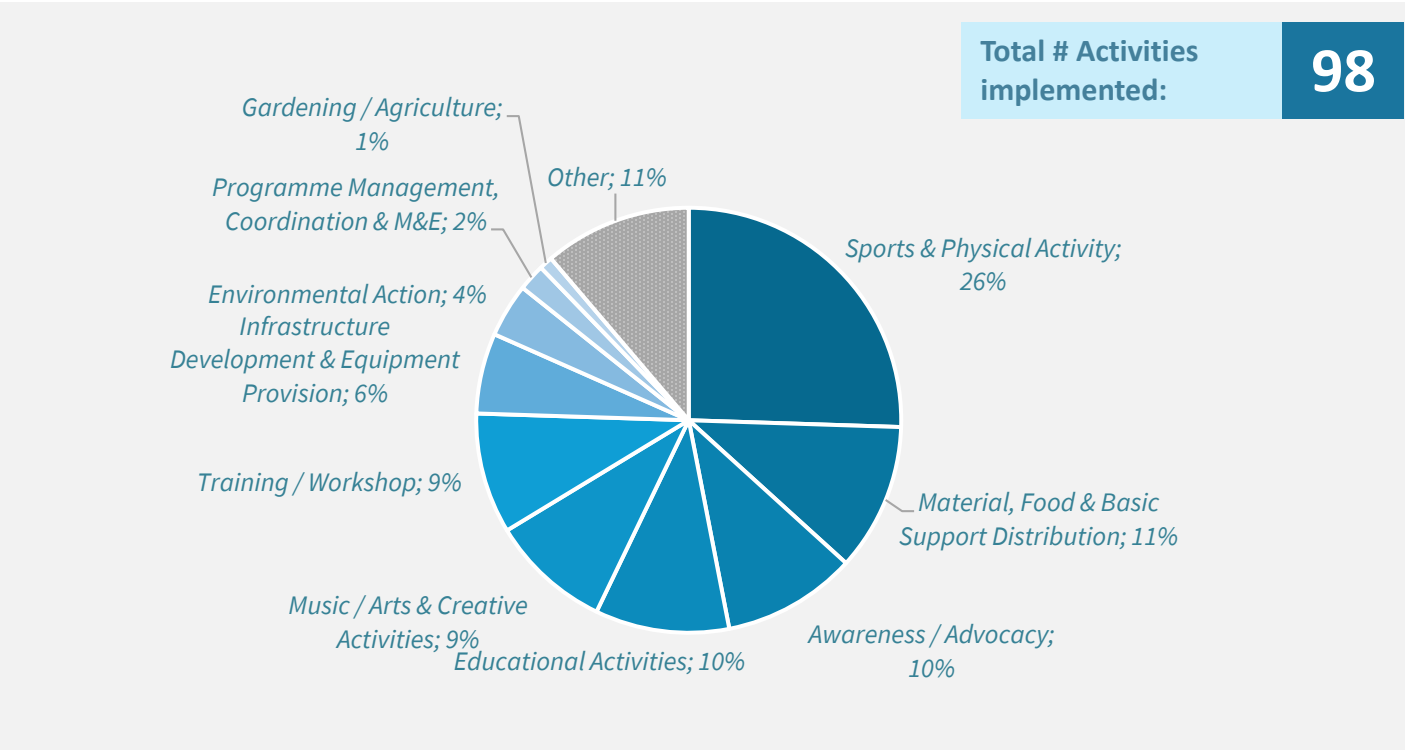
All 25 grantees submitted their mid term report and this document summarizes the reach and outcome of the activities implemented by the entire cohort of 2026 grassroots grantees.

Over the course of the first 6 months of 2026, the 2025 grassroots grantees reported a total of 98 activities. On average, grantees conducted 4 unique activities over the course of the reporting period. The maximum number of activities reported by a single grantee was 10.

The activities reported were categorized into 10 activity types. Almost two thirds of all grantees implemented activities that were classified in either one or two category types, whereas 9 grantees conducted activities that were more diversified, spanning between 3 and 7 activity types.

Overall, we can observe a diverse range of activity types implemented by grantees, noting that the top 4 activity types were: Sports & Physical Activity (26% of activities), Material & food support (11 %), Awareness and Advocacy (10%) and Educational Activities (10 %). Eleven percent of activities (11 %) were recorded by grantees as “other”, and these often related to the organisation of events such as Independence day, Mother’s day or Gala Nights.

Type of Activities implemented by 2026 Grassroot Grantees, Jan – July 2026 (% of activities)



Reach of Activities : Population Groups

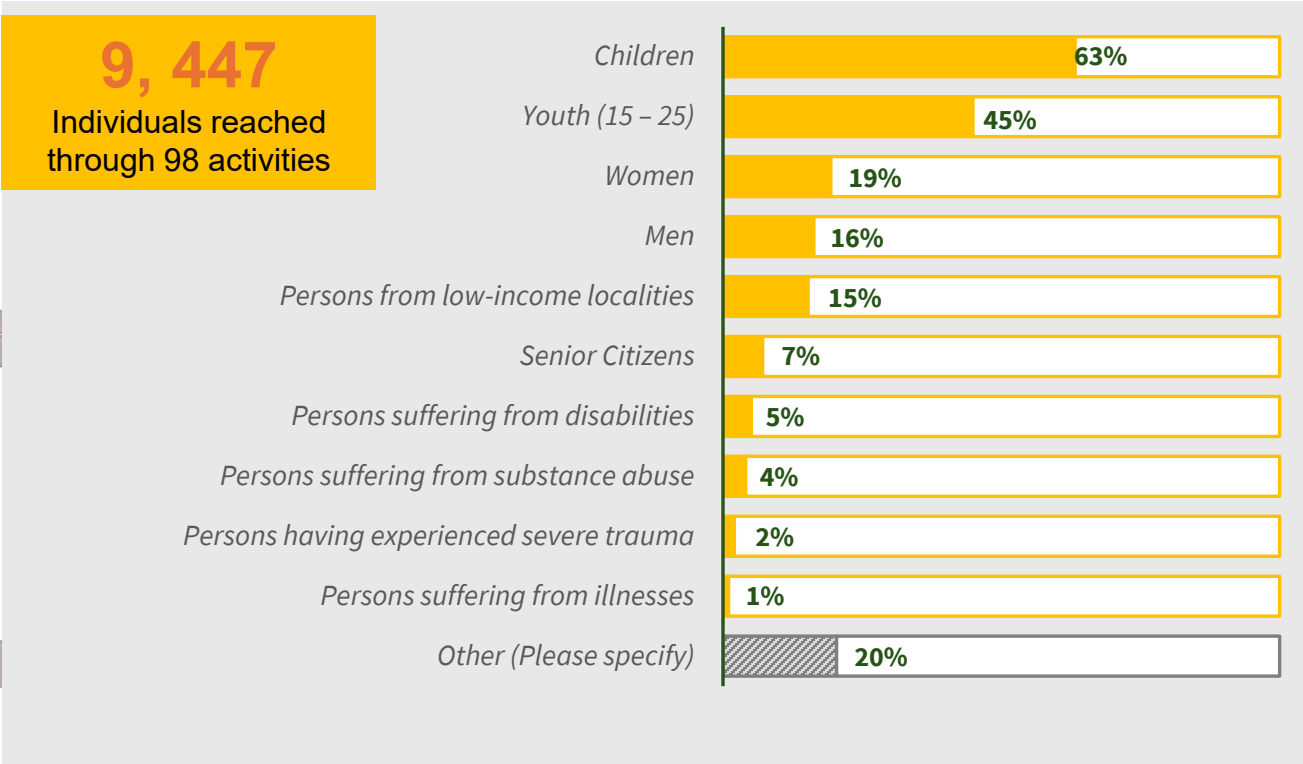


The 98 activities implemented by the 25 grantees reached a total of 9, 447 individuals in the south of Mauritius. On average, each activity reached approximately 60 persons, noting that there were important differences across activities: some reaching up to 500 persons (in the case of advocacy and awareness campaigns) and some reaching only 1 person (individual scholarship support). As with activity types, this finding points to the diverse nature of the grassroots grantee cohort.

Grantees were asked to report on who their activities reached, noting that a single activity could be recorded as reaching up to 3 different audience types. The share of focused activities (reaching only 1 audience type) was 38%, similar to the share of activities reaching up to 3 audience types (37%).

Unlike with activity types, there was less diversity amongst audiences reached. Almost two thirds of all activities (63%) reached children, whereas 45% reached youth (15 – 21 years). In contrast, only 4% of activities reached persons suffering from substance abuse. Twenty activities were recorded as reaching ‘other’ audience categories. These were reported by 3 different grantees. Audiences included in their description were: Adults above 25, Financially vulnerable students (12-19 yrs) at school, staff and pupils at schools, parents of children.

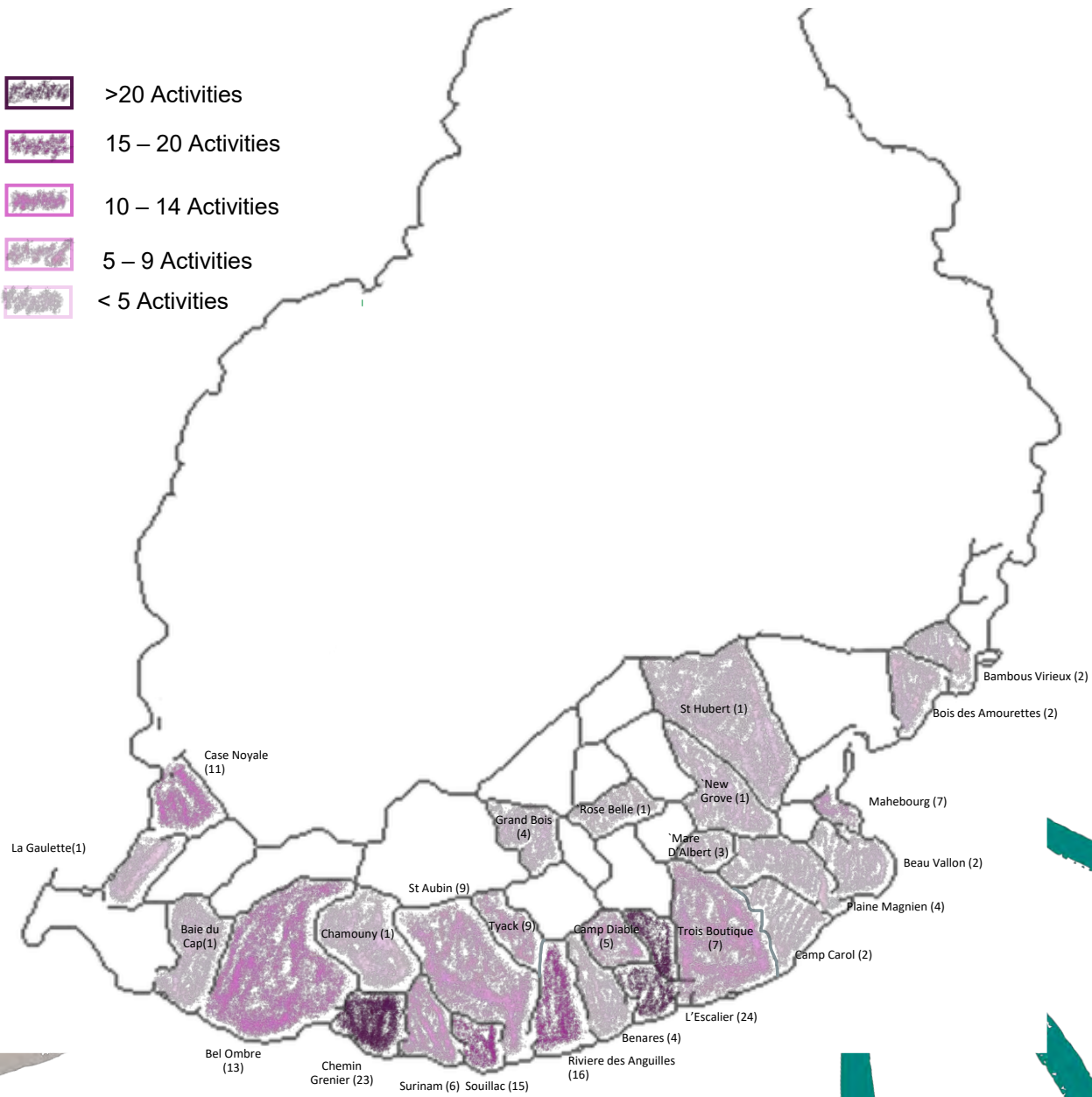
Audiences reached through activities implemented by 2026 Grassroot Grantees, Jan – July 2026 (% activities)



Reach of Activities : Villages reached

Grantees were also asked to report on where their activities took place. For each activity reported, upto 5 villages reached could be indicated. Of the 98 activities implemented, 63 (64 %) targeted only 1 village, speaking to the localized nature of most activities implemented by grassroots grantees.

At least 26 villages in the South of Mauritius benefited from the activities of the 2026 Bioculture Cares Grantees, with six villages benefitting from over 10 activities between January and July 2026. At the district level, 120 activities reached Savanne, whereas 55 reached Grand Port and 12 reached Black River, noting that only 4 villages of Black River District are eligible for the grassroots grant.



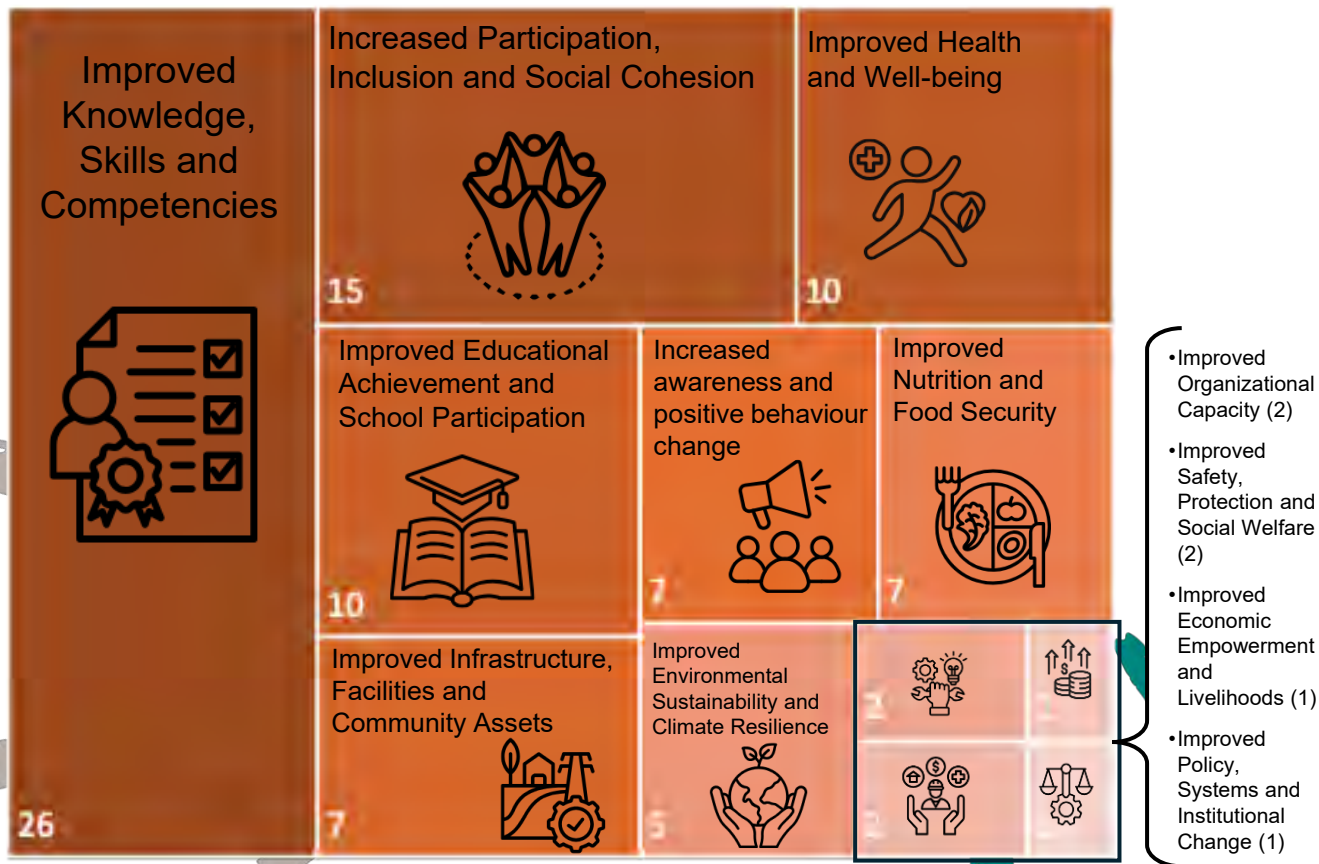
Outcome of Activities

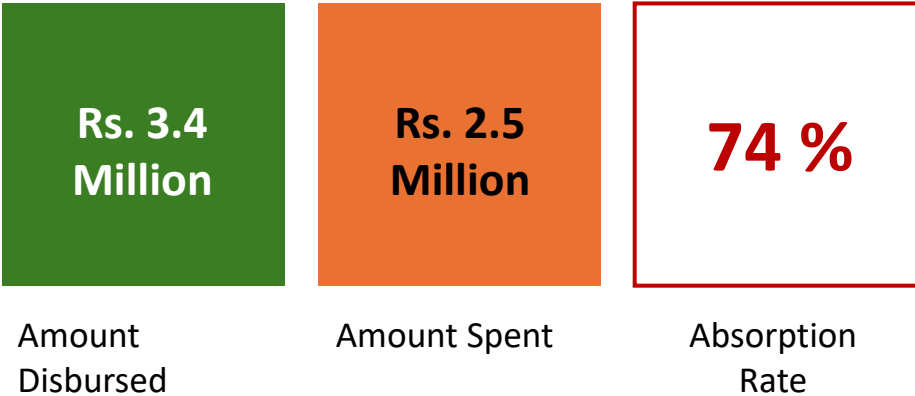
In addition to describing the activities undertaken, grantees were asked to reflect on “*what changed*” as a result of their activities. For each of the 98 activities implemented, grantees reported on the outcome of the activity.

Whilst recognizing that a single activity can have multiple outcomes, grantees were asked to identify what they considered the principal outcome, to facilitate reporting. Furthermore, to ensure consistency across reporting, grantees were provided with a choice of 12 categories to choose from. The categories correspond to outcomes that can be expected from grassroots initiatives aimed at strengthening socio economic development. Grantees also provided additional details and context to each of the outcome categories selected.

The 98 activities implemented corresponded to a diversity of outcomes. Improved knowledge, skills and competencies was cited the most frequently (27% of activities), followed by increased participation, inclusion and social cohesion (15%). The two least cited outcomes were improved economic empowerment and livelihoods (1 %), and improved policy, systems and institutional change (1%). Given the grassroots nature of activities, and the limited scale at which grantees operate, this finding is coherent. Five activities were recorded a having ‘other’ outcomes. These were either related to the organisation of specific events or alternate framing of the 12 existing categories.

Reported outcomes for activities implemented by 2026 Grassroot Grantees, Jan – July 2026 (# activities)





The grassroot grants awarded in 2026 range from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 250,000. A first disbursement of 70% of the total grant amount was made to all grassroot grantees in January, corresponding to a total of Rs. 3.4 Million for all 25 grants.

The average absorption rate per grantee was 77% whereas the overall absorption rate was 74 %. Two grantees reported spending more than the amount disbursed, whereas five had spent less than 50% of the amount disbursed.

All grantees submitted proofs of expenses and 64% of grantees provided receipts that corresponded to the reported expenditure within a 10% margin. Four grantees did not provide receipts for at least 85% of their expenses, and four grantees produced receipts exceeding their disbursed amount by at least 18 %.

In most cases, initiatives implemented by grassroot grantees are financed through a mix of donations, personal contributions and grants, making it difficult to produce clear cut financial reports tallying exactly with the amount disbursed.

Challenges Encountered

In their mid year reports, the 25 grantees making up the 2026 grassroots grantee cohort described some of the key challenges they faced. We also asked them to explain how these were overcome and what adaptations and solutions were put in place.

The challenges speak to structural issues that social actors face in the South of Mauritius and beyond. Overall, the challenges identified are not dissimilar to those described by the 2025 grassroots grantees in their end of year report.

Challenges encountered

PARTICIPATION & SUPPORT

Barriers to children’s and families’ involvement, including motivation, absenteeism, parental support, confidence, stigma, disability access, food needs, and safeguarding.



FUNDING & PEOPLE

Insufficient funding, rising costs, limited equipment, lack of qualified coaches/teachers/facilitators, volunteer recruitment and retention, and reliance on a small number of individuals.



PLANNING & LOGISTICS

School holidays, competing schedules, weather disruption, delayed activities, appointments, event management, supervision, procurement, and coordinating multiple stakeholders.



COMMUNICATION & COORDINATION

Some organisations found it difficult to communicate regularly with parents, young people, and community partners. Limited internet access, equipment, and digital skills also created challenges.



TRANSPORT & FACILITIES

Geographic distance, cost and availability of transport, inadequate or inaccessible venues, poor sports grounds, storage constraints, safety/security concerns, lighting, toilets, and weather exposure.



Engaging Parents

Protecting dignity

Working together

Flexible planning

Including everyone

Hybrid Communication (digital + analog)

Using local support

Best practices identified



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With thanks to all Bioculture Cares Grantees for the work they do!



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