

Transforming Food System

“It’s in a company’s best interests to take good care of its economic and social environment, meaning its suppliers, its employees, its customers or the places where it operates. That’s what I call its ecosystem.”

Franck RIBOUD, Former Danone CEO



For more information
please visit:

<https://ecosysteme.danone.com>

When the financial crisis hit the global economy and impacted unemployment rates worldwide in 2009, Danone’s CEO at the time, Franck Riboud, announced that it was time for Danone to make a major investment in its local ‘ecosystems’.

In response, Danone shareholders agreed to invest €100M into the newly launched vehicle called Danone Ecosystem.

Reflecting on 15 Years of Concrete Projects

Danone Ecosystem is a non-profit organization that collaborates with farmers, waste pickers, healthcare professionals, experts, NGOs, Danone businesses and other companies to co-create projects addressing local challenges.

We provide organizational know-how, technical expertise, and financial support to co-create projects that address challenges, such as dealing with unsustainable farming practices, poor waste management, limited access to healthcare in underserved areas, and the struggles small businesses face in growing and thriving in their communities. We’re called Danone Ecosystem because nothing — whether it’s birds, bees, or businesses — can thrive unless its ecosystem is healthy.

Key achievements include:



- Launching over **100 projects**
- With over **90 partners**
- **€230M** co-invested
- Professionally empowering **80,000 people**
- Impacting **6 million** indirectly

Danone Ecosystem operates in areas where Danone has a presence, focusing on initiatives that benefit the broader community and serve the public good. Through its efforts, Danone highlights its commitment to social progress and adding value to the local communities.

This initiative was the first of its kind, with a clear vision to support the transition of Danone’s supply chain.

Our Mission and Ongoing Commitment

For over 15 years, Danone Ecosystem has empowered communities, strengthened healthcare systems, and protected the nature through concrete projects. Our mission is to build the food system of tomorrow, transforming Danone's value chain into one that is:



- healthy
- circular
- sustainable
- regenerative
- inclusive

Six Clusters of Focus

Danone Ecosystem's initiatives are structured around six clusters, each addressing an important aspect of sustainability and social impact:

Health

1. **Breastfeeding Support:** Promoting healthy breastfeeding practices.
2. **Ageing Well:** Enhancing the quality of life for the elderly.
3. **Iron Deficiency & Anemia Eradication:** Addressing iron deficiency and anaemia.

Nature

4. **Regenerative Agriculture:** Supporting farmers in adopting sustainable practices.
5. **Watershed Protection:** Ensuring sustainable water sources for communities and operations.
6. **Inclusive Waste Management:** Empowering waste pickers and improving waste management systems.

Across all these clusters, social impact through empowering people remains at the heart of our initiatives. We believe that true sustainability is achieved by empowering communities and placing people at the center of our efforts. By addressing nature and health challenges at a local level, globally, we ensure that our actions create ripple effects of positive change.

Building Strong Partnerships & Collaboration for Long-Term Impact

Danone Ecosystem's success is rooted in collaboration and partnerships with over 90 partners. Our approach involves co-creating solutions with diverse partners, including Danone businesses, NGOs, local governments, and development banks, ensuring sustainable and impactful projects.

By building bridges between public and private entities, we leverage our expertise in social innovation to design sustainable models that focus on elements to protect the environment, strengthen local economies, and ensure that everyone in the community has access to opportunities and resources. These models drive systemic change by addressing root causes, promoting long-term solutions, and ensuring that government engagement and public-private partnerships (PPPs) are integral to the lasting success of our projects.

Measuring and Sharing Impact

Impact is our compass. We define, measure, evaluate, and share our impact to improve, improve, and inspire. For each project, we establish Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to set clear goals and benchmarks. These KPIs allow us to monitor progress, measure success, and make informed adjustments to enhance effectiveness. By systematically tracking these metrics, we ensure that each initiative not only meets its objectives.

Leveraging Co-financing

Danone Ecosystem not only gives grants to initiate and de-risk transitions but also attracts additional funding from partners, doubling our impact potential. To date, our projects are co-funded with an investment from Danone Ecosystem and its Partners, half of which comes from external sources.

Knowledge Sharing and Engagement

We share knowledge through an open-source approach, focusing on inspiring, connecting, and taking action. Our multi-stakeholder approach scales impact, with policymaking as a critical lever for change. Our efforts align with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making our initiatives globally relevant and impactful.

Our Ambition and Call to Action

We invite experts, potential co-financers, and stakeholders invested in systemic change to join us in building the food system of tomorrow, ensuring sustainability and inclusivity for generations to come.

“Our goal in the upcoming years is to go the extra mile, scale our impact by coordinating and building on Danone’s sustainability ambitions.”

Emmanuel MARCHANT, Danone SVP Milk Sustainability Africa and Danone Ecosystem General Manager