



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

STICHTING DIENSTENCENTRUM  
GERED GEREEDSCHAP





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# INTRODUCTION

In many of the countries where Gered Gereedschap is active, young people do not lack motivation or talent. What they lack are opportunities. Opportunities to learn a trade. To gain practical experience. To access quality tools. And ultimately, opportunities to build an independent livelihood. This is where we aim to make a difference.

For more than forty years, Gered Gereedschap has supported craftsmen and vocational training institutions with practical resources. Over the past few years, however, our approach has continued to evolve. We have learned that providing good tools alone is not enough. Anyone who truly wants to invest in sustainable development must look at the entire chain of craftsmanship: learning, working, and entrepreneurship.

That is why we are working increasingly closely with local partners to build strong regional networks around technical vocational education and entrepreneurship. In Uganda, we see how schools, apprenticeship companies, entrepreneurs, and rental workshops are increasingly connecting with and strengthening one another. As a result, young people not only receive better training, but also have greater opportunities to find employment or start their own businesses.

What makes this work so rewarding is that real change often starts with something small and practical. A refurbished machine in a training workshop. An apprenticeship placement for a student. A starter toolkit for a young craftsperson. Or a workspace where entrepreneurs can rent machinery they could never afford to purchase themselves. It is precisely this kind of practical support that enables people to continue growing independently.

Yet that change ultimately begins here in the Netherlands. With someone donating tools at one of our collection points. With a donor who supports our work financially. With companies that contribute materials, expertise, or resources. And above all, with the dedication of our

hundreds of volunteers, who give used tools a second life. In this way, everyone contributes in their own way. Not only to creating opportunities for skilled workers in Africa, but also to promoting reuse, sustainability, and social engagement closer to home. It remains inspiring to see people from different backgrounds working together towards the same goal. For me personally, it is this sense of connection that makes our work so special.

In this annual report, you can read about the steps we have taken together over the past year. Steps we are proud of, but which above all motivate us to continue building a world in which more people have the opportunity to shape their own future.

On behalf of everyone at Gered Gereedschap, I would like to sincerely thank you for your involvement and support.

Best regards,  
Arjan van Dijk  
Chairman, Gered Gereedschap







# OUR VISION

## WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

Hundreds of millions of people around the world live in poverty and survive on less than two dollars a day. Gered Gereedschap believes that everyone has the right to an independent livelihood and is committed to strengthening the self-reliance of people and organisations, particularly in Africa.

## FOR THE MAKERS

In everything we do, Gered Gereedschap focuses on the strength and potential of people themselves. We take a practical approach and believe that concrete solutions can bring about meaningful change. By providing access to quality vocational education, guidance towards employment, and support with reliable tools, we enable people to build an independent livelihood as skilled craftsmen and craftswomen. Those with the ambition and capability to work independently are encouraged to start their own businesses. Equipped with the right knowledge, experience, and tools, they can earn a decent income and create a better future for themselves. We believe this is the key to lasting success.

## STRENGTHENING THE SECONDARY SECTOR

With our mission of promoting self-reliance in African developing countries as our starting point, we also view our work from a broader perspective. We believe that strengthening vocational education and entrepreneurship – both regionally and nationally – is essential for the sustainable development of communities and economies. Our focus is particularly on the crafts and construction sectors, industries that offer significant opportunities for people to build independent livelihoods.

In many developing countries, the raw materials needed to create a thriving manufacturing sector are already available. What is often lacking are skilled workers, technical knowledge, access to finance, and the tools and machinery needed to put those resources to productive use.



# OUR SUPPORT

Gered Gereedschap supports technical craftsmanship in all stages of its development through its programmes – in Africa under the name EQUIP: education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Our aim is to provide (starting) craftspeople with the opportunity to build an independent and dignified livelihood through their skills and craftsmanship.

Our support is practical and tangible. We strengthen vocational training programmes by providing refurbished tools and machines. We also invest in the knowledge and skills of teachers, enabling them to train young people more effectively. For young people from low-income families, we offer scholarships that make it possible for them to attend school and learn a trade. After completing their training, we support them in taking their first steps towards employment. This may include a starter kit with tools, microcredits to purchase materials, and guidance from an experienced craftsman or craftswoman.

To further stimulate entrepreneurship, we establish tool rental and refurbishment workshops. Quality tools are

often scarce and unaffordable. These workshops provide more craftspeople with access to the tools and machinery they need to practise their trade and increase their income.

To maximise our impact, we increasingly focus on selected regions where, together with local and regional partners, we support all aspects of technical craftsmanship. Depending on local needs and opportunities, we implement different components of our programmes to strengthen craftspeople and the communities in which they live and work.



## EDUCATION



### Tools and machines

Supporting vocational education in developing countries with tools, machines, accommodation and equipment.



### Scholarships

Supporting disadvantaged young people with scholarships to receive vocational training and to purchase study material and tools.



### Teachers programme

Providing training to teachers in the areas of technical and didactic skills.



### Curriculum development

Development of training programmes meeting the demand of the local labour market for an optimum balance between labour market and vocational training.



## EMPLOYMENT



### Master-Apprentice programmes

After their training, start-up craftsmen are supported by an experienced craftsman. Focus on transfer of (practical) vocational knowledge and training of life-skills and entrepreneurship.



### Tool starterkit

Set of tools for a craftsman to get started.



### Microcredit

Funding of building material and/or tools.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP



### Rental workshops

Quality tools and machines are indispensable for a flourishing craft and construction sector. Gered Gereedschap makes these available to local craftsmen by setting up rental locations.



### Refurbishing workshops

Old used tools are refurbished and prepared for re-use in tool refurbishing workshops. These will be used at locale vocational centres or at tool rental locations.

Our support consists of:



Tools and machines



Accommodation and equipment



Knowledge and guidance



Finance





# OUR WORKING METHODS

## WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A POVERTY-FREE FUTURE

The Gered Gereedschap network in the Netherlands consists of 23 workshops where around 500 volunteers dedicate their time and skills with great commitment. Together, they work towards one goal: providing craft-people in Africa with the practical resources they need to build an independent and dignified livelihood through their craftsmanship.

Most volunteers are actively involved in refurbishing used tools that are given a second life in Africa. These tools are collected through a network of 450 collection points at private homes and businesses. After careful refurbishment, they are shipped in sea containers to our project partners. Each year, around 150,000 refurbished tools are used in our programmes: from strengthening vocational training institutions and equipping rental workshops to assembling starter kits for young entrepreneurs who want to start their own businesses.

When needed, volunteers also share their knowledge and experience on site. They travel to Africa to support project partners in setting up and equipping workshops, transferring technical knowledge, or assisting local managers in running workshop facilities effectively.

## PRACTICAL SUPPORT THAT WORKS

Since 1982, Gered Gereedschap has supported craft-people with knowledge, skills, and tools. We believe that

practical solutions can bring about meaningful change. Our approach is therefore tangible, goal-oriented, and pragmatic. We always work with local and reliable partners who take the lead in their own projects. This allows us to provide direct support without the involvement of external parties. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, donated materials, and low overhead costs, we are able to keep our expenses low and our impact high.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL INITIATIVES

Every year, Gered Gereedschap receives more than 500 applications from schools and civil society organisations in developing countries. We assess these applications carefully but straightforwardly, looking at criteria such as reliability, financial sustainability, and – in the case of schools – the quality of education. Above all, however, we assess the expected impact on the lives of people and their communities. Based on this assessment, we determine the type of support we provide.

We expect regular feedback from the organisations we support regarding the results they achieve. In this way, we continue working together towards lasting change.



# GG MOVING FORWARD

In 2025, we took another step towards our dream: an Africa free from poverty, where craftsmanship provides young people and adults with opportunities for employment, income, and an independent livelihood. Time and again, we see that quality vocational education is the starting point, but also only the beginning. It is the successful transition to entrepreneurship that often makes the real difference. Learning to work with tools alone is not enough. Young people and craftspeople must be able to fully develop their skills, supported by teachers and mentors who can transfer their knowledge, as well as by apprenticeship companies where practical experience is gained. Access to machinery, entrepreneurial guidance, financing, and professional networks are equally important in enabling people to become self-employed. This is how sustainable incomes and long-term economic growth are created.

In Uganda, several important projects within our regional approach in Jinja were successfully completed in 2025. At Prime Vocational Institute, Pioneer Technical Institute, and Lords Meade Vocational College, vocational programmes were strengthened, practical training facilities were established, teachers received further training, and networks of apprenticeship companies were developed. The completion of these projects demonstrates that our integrated approach works. Young people not only learn a trade but also gain the resources, experience, and confidence needed to build their future.

The Small Tailoring Workshops project showed how powerful entrepreneurship can be. Eight tailoring workshops developed into centres where craftspeople can rent machinery, take on assignments, receive business guidance, and support one another. As a result, local enterprises are emerging that not only provide income for the entrepreneurs themselves but also create new opportunities for other tailors in their communities.

At the same time, the foundation of our work in the Netherlands remained unchanged: collecting and refurbishing tools and machines that make a difference in our projects across Africa. In 2025, eight containers were shipped to Africa. In Ghana, Uganda, and Tanzania, tools and machinery arrived at schools, workshops, and civil society organisations that train and support skilled workers.

In the Netherlands, our workshops once again formed the engine behind these efforts. Volunteers sorted, inspected, repaired, and packed thousands of tools. This was not without challenges. Housing remained a major concern. GG The Hague had to search for a new location but fortunately

found a new home in the Binckhorst area, allowing its activities to continue. Volunteers from the former GG Den Dolder workshop made a fresh start in Zeist in partnership with Kringloop Zeist. Developments like these demonstrate not only the vulnerability of our network but, above all, its resilience and commitment.

In January, the new GG Amsterdam workshop was officially opened by the Alderman for Sustainability and Circularity. GG Groningen celebrated its 40th anniversary. During our annual National Workshop Meeting, representatives from workshops across the country came together to share experiences, inspire one another, and look ahead. This sense of connection and cooperation is of great value to the future of Gered Gereedschap.

One particularly visible highlight was our participation in the BouwBeurs trade fair in Utrecht. Thanks to the support of sponsors, volunteers, and visitors, no fewer than 1,000 toolboxes were assembled. The initiative not only provided practical starter kits for craftspeople in Africa but also generated valuable new contacts, partnerships, and awareness of our work.

Our cooperation with companies, churches, charity shops, foundations, and other partners continued to







grow. The involvement of PKN Gouda developed into an inspiring initiative. Young members of the church creatively contributed by painting a shipping container before it departed for Uganda. It became a powerful symbol of commitment here and opportunity there. Together with other fundraising activities, this initiative generated significant support for the work of Gered Gereedschap.

2025 also brought challenges. Further developing our local organisation in Uganda proved more complex than anticipated and resulted in several staffing changes during the year.

We look back on 2025 with pride and gratitude. It was a year in which many efforts came together: completed projects, visible results, strong partnerships, and a committed network of volunteers. Thanks to their dedication, many young people and skilled workers in Africa were once again able to work towards an independent livelihood.

With that same energy, we continue building a future in which craftsmanship turns dreams into reality, strengthens communities, and gives people the opportunity to make the most of their talents.

Number of projects	43
Number of tools supplied	112.118
Craftspeople supported / vocational training places created	9.082
Number of containers shipped	8
Number of countries	3
Scholarships provided	135
Vocational teachers trained	24
Apprenticeships realized	256
Number of apprenticeship supervisors / masters trained	125
Microcredits provided	31



# A TOOLBOX FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES: FROM MASTERMILO TO KAYIRE EMMA

When the well-known technical YouTuber MasterMilo visited the Gered Gereedschap workshop in Nijkerk last year, he helped refurbish an extensive set of metalworking tools. That toolbox has now reached its destination – and a new owner: Kayire Emma in Uganda.

Emma is 24 years old and lives and works in Kisinda, a village in the impoverished Busoga region of eastern Uganda. He grew up as the eldest of fifteen children. When his parents could no longer afford school fees, he was forced to leave school at an early age. Yet he never gave up on his dream of becoming a welder. “From a young age, I wanted to become a welder,” Emma explains. “But without money for school, that dream seemed impossible.”

Through the local organisation Compassion, Emma was introduced to Prime Vocational Institute in Iganga. Thanks to a scholarship provided by Gered Gereedschap, he was able to enrol in a welding and metalworking programme. In December 2024, he successfully graduated.

After completing his training, Emma found work at Tembo Steels Uganda Limited, a large steel manufacturing company where he worked at the furnaces. Although he had learned a valuable trade, earning an independent income was still out of reach. Determined to build his own future, he decided to start a workshop in his home village. With money borrowed from friends, support from the EQUIP programme, and a small collection of tools, he launched his own welding business from home.

“The work at the factory was tough and dangerous,” he says. “I wanted to build something of my own. Since January, my business has grown rapidly. I work long days and walk eight kilometres to my workshop every day.” Demand for his services continued to increase, but access to quality equipment remained a challenge. The arrival of tools and

welding machines donated through MasterMilo and HBM Machines therefore gave his business a significant boost.

With the new equipment, Emma can work more efficiently, serve multiple customers at the same time, and take on larger contracts. He is currently working on orders worth more than 2.3 million Ugandan shillings. He has also employed two former classmates who were unable to find work after graduation and had returned to small-scale farming. “The new machines use less electricity, work faster, and help me serve more customers at the same time,” Emma explains. “That allows my business to grow.”

The income from his business enables Emma to pay salaries, support his family, and cover school fees for his younger brothers and sisters. He has also purchased a cow to generate additional income and improve the family’s nutrition. In addition, he has bought land to further expand his workshop.

His dream is to train more young people as welders and help other families escape poverty. “I want to give other young people the same opportunity that I was given,” he says. “So that they too can build a future for themselves.” A remarkable journey: from a school dropout with limited prospects to an entrepreneur creating opportunities for others.

Watch the video:  
[www.geredgereedschap.nl/emma](http://www.geredgereedschap.nl/emma)





# SUSTAINABLE RECYCLING

Since its founding, Gered Gereedschap has been committed to giving used tools and machines a second life. Through reuse, we not only promote craftsmanship in Africa, but also contribute to a more sustainable society in the Netherlands and reduce the burden on the environment.

## WHAT WE COLLECT

Our collection efforts focus primarily on hand tools, sewing machines, and small power tools such as drills and grinders. In addition, we are increasingly looking for larger machines, including woodturning lathes, pillar drills, and generators, which are essential for fully equipping workshops at vocational schools and tool rental centres.



## COLLECTION POINTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

In the Netherlands, we have a network of approximately 450 collection points. Many of these are located in Praxis, Jongeneel, and Bouwmaat stores. Other collection points can be found in fair-trade shops, local hardware stores, and with private individuals. The workshops of Gered Gereedschap largely manage this network themselves.





### **TOOLS IN NUMBERS**

The supply of used tools continues to grow. We receive contributions not only from private individuals, but also regular donations from companies that support us through special exchange campaigns. Each year, we receive approximately 400,000 to 600,000 tools.



### **A SECOND LIFE OR RECYCLING**

Not every donated tool is suitable for reuse. On average, one in three tools can be refurbished and prepared for a second life. Tools that cannot be reused are carefully dismantled and recycled as effectively as possible. The proceeds help support our workshops with materials, transport costs, and maintenance.



# SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE VOLUNTEERING

## **VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

Gered Gereedschap is actively committed to promoting social participation. We offer opportunities to volunteers of all ages and backgrounds – young and old, experienced and inexperienced. In addition, we contribute to the (re)integration and labour participation of people with a social, psychological, or physical distance to the labour market.

The vast majority of our workshops are run entirely by volunteers. These are people who, often after retirement or alongside their regular jobs, choose to dedicate their time and talents to refurbishing tools and preparing them for a second life. Some workshops are linked to welfare organisations, (re)integration projects, or day-care centres, including those in the fields of mental health and addiction care.

Volunteers also play an important role at our national office in Amsterdam. They are active in various teams, including the Projects Team (which assesses project applications), the Marketing & Communications Team (responsible for communications and donor administration), and the


Operations Team (which coordinates the transport of tools and machinery). Several volunteers have successfully completed reintegration programmes through Gered Gereedschap and subsequently found paid employment.

## **COLLABORATION WITH SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

A number of our workshops have been established in cooperation with welfare organisations, (re)integration projects, and day-care centres. The accessible working environment of Gered Gereedschap provides people with a valuable opportunity to develop skills, build a work routine, and collaborate with others. This makes it an excellent stepping stone within vocational rehabilitation programmes.

In 2025, we worked together with organisations including Reclassering Nederland, Reinaerde Arbeidscentrum (Veenendaal), Stichting 2Switch (Arnhem), Stichting Buitengewoon (Velsbroek), and SVRZ Activity Centre (Koudekerke).

Activities for people living with Korsakoff syndrome started on 1 November 2024 in partnership with SVRZ Activity Centre in Koudekerke. In addition, several workshops participated in the annual NLdoet campaign organised by the Oranje Fund. This nationwide initiative highlights the importance of volunteering and encourages as many people as possible to dedicate a day to volunteer work and make a difference in their communities.



News from the field

# “IF YOU DO NOTHING, NOTHING HAPPENS!”

## Ans van den Akker, Gered Gereedschap The Hague

When you walk into the new Gered Gereedschap workshop in The Hague, you immediately find yourself standing in front of Ans van den Akker’s desk. Surrounded by a printer/scanner and two large computer screens, she welcomes visitors with warmth and enthusiasm.

“Coffee? We don’t have heating in this building,” she laughs. “But we do have an electric heater.”

Ans has only been working from this new location for a few weeks, but she has been involved with the workshop for more than five years. Now in her seventies and long retired, slowing down has never really appealed to her.

“If you do nothing, nothing happens. That’s just not who I am,” she says. “When I was seventeen, I was already working in a technical workshop, coordinating activities and handling administration. I’ve always liked keeping an eye on everything.”

After a career as a secretary, coordinator, and editor, Ans understands the importance of a well-organised administration. She brought all that experience with her when she applied for a volunteer position at Gered Gereedschap at the end of 2020.

“It was during the COVID period – remember that?” she recalls. “I found the vacancy through the volunteer platform PEP The Hague. Gered Gereedschap does wonderful work, and this role allows me to use all my experience and motivation. I usually work at the workshop two days a week and do the rest from home, especially the tasks that require concentration, such as reports and meeting minutes.”

Ans’s responsibilities are wide-ranging. She coordinates transport, planning, customs claims, meetings, orders, shipment notifications, reports, and just about everything else. Oh, and she has also helped manage two workshop relocations in the past five years.

She is truly the smooth-running force behind the organisation.

“What I enjoy most are the people,” she says. “The men here in the workshop, the other workshops, and the team in Amsterdam. I like keeping an eye on things so that everything stays under control. I’m not technical at all, but they still call me the oil lady. I think that’s wonderful.”



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# PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

In 2025, Gered Gereedschap once again supported dozens of project partners in Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, and Malawi. Together, we work towards one shared goal: enabling people to build an independent livelihood through craftsmanship. Increasingly, our focus extends beyond education alone to include employment and entrepreneurship. Quality tools provide the foundation, but sustainable income growth requires more: practical training, professional workshops, guidance, and access to markets and machinery.

## STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Within the EQUIP programme in Jinja, Uganda, we continued to strengthen vocational education. At Prime Vocational Institute, Pioneer Technical Institute, Nile Vocational Institute, and Lords Meade Vocational College, we invested further in technical training programmes and their connection to the labour market.

At Prime Vocational Institute, practical training facilities for Construction and Fashion & Design were equipped with professional tools and machinery. This enabled students to work with the same equipment used in the workplace. As a result, the number of students able to participate in practical training increased significantly: from 35 to 80 students in Fashion & Design and from 25 to 50 students in Construction. During their studies, students gained hands-on experience by producing school uniforms for other schools and contributing to real construction projects. The improved quality of training also led to a substantial increase in student enrolment.

At Nile Vocational Institute, programmes in Automotive Mechanics and Plumbing & Pipe Fitting were further strengthened. New tools, machinery, and starter kits improved the quality of practical training. Together with local businesses, we also identified the skills most needed in the labour market. This helped ensure that training programmes better reflect workplace realities and that graduates are better prepared for employment or self-employment.

## SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Alongside vocational education, Gered Gereedschap continued to invest in entrepreneurship. In Iganga, the Entrepreneurial Workshop further developed into a central hub where young craftspeople can use professional machinery, rent tools, and receive business support. During the second half of 2025, 112 craftspeople made use of the workshop, including 51 new users. Demand for tool and machinery rental increased significantly.

One of the most successful projects of 2025 was the Tailoring Satellites project in Uganda. Together with Prime Vocational Institute, we invested in a network of eight tailoring workshops. These workshops function as local entrepreneurship centres where tailors can rent professional production equipment, receive entrepreneurship training, and benefit from coaching and mentoring.

The results were impressive. A total of 185 tailors now make use of the facilities and support provided. Working together within the workshops, they are able to take on larger assignments, such as producing school uniforms and corporate clothing in substantial quantities. This created new employment opportunities, with several workshops recruiting additional staff and apprentices to meet growing demand.

The number of customers per workshop increased significantly, from an average of 16 to 43 customers per month. As a result, the average daily income of participating tailors rose from USD 1.13 to USD 2.29 per day. For many participants, this meant moving above the international poverty line.

## TOOLS AS A CONNECTING ELEMENT

Alongside our multi-year EQUIP programmes, Gered Gereedschap also supported many organisations in 2025 through the provision of tools and machinery. Quality tools remain the foundation of every craftsperson's work.

By combining reliable tools, practical vocational education, and support for entrepreneurship, we work together with our partners to create sustainable incomes and stronger local economies. The results of 2025 demonstrate that this approach works. More and more young people and skilled workers are succeeding in earning an independent income and gradually building a pathway out of poverty.





# PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

## PROJECTS IN 2025

PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	LOCATION	COUNTRY
20-401	EQUIP rental PEFO	Njeru	UG-Uganda
22-003	SEGA	Morogoro	TZ-Tanzania
22-011	KWTRUST	Kasese	UG-Uganda
22-029	TWA	KINYAMASEKE	UG-Uganda
22-042	Wilspring Youth Organization	Aduku	UG-Uganda
22-051	IYO	Dodoma	TZ-Tanzania
22-055	ACFMCS	Dokolo	UG-Uganda
22-069	ASUDEV	Kasese	UG-Uganda
22-072	ABVI	Kampala	UG-Uganda
22-077	WIVOT	Kampala	UG-Uganda
22-078	VECECAB	Kampala	UG-Uganda
22-086	NGC	Mwanza City	TZ-Tanzania
22-087	SGVTC	Arusha	TZ-Tanzania
22-090	TEACH	Njombe	TZ-Tanzania
22-095	ACIN	Kampala	UG-Uganda
22-118	Teamwork	Kalisizo	UG-Uganda
22-121	SSCU	Serere	UG-Uganda
22-138	TOUCH	Kampala	UG-Uganda
22-141	Multimodus	Donkerbroek	TZ-Tanzania
22-148	KITAVI	Kitimbwa	UG-Uganda
22-154	FOVOS	Wobulenzi	UG-Uganda
22-801	Pioneer-2	Iganga	UG-Uganda
22-803	Prime 2 - cam elc	Iganga	UG-Uganda
22-804	Nile 2	Jinja	UG-Uganda
22-805	Loards Meade 1	Njeru	UG-Uganda
23-062	FACE	Zalewa	MW-Malawi
23-090	Tools for Solidatity		TZ-Tanzania
23-097	Don Bosco Tanzania	Dar es Salaam	TZ-Tanzania
23-146	Fountain of Hope	Lilongwe	MW-Malawi
23-172	HOCADI	Lilongwe	MW-Malawi
23-228	TST	Blantyre	MW-Malawi
23-252	TCDDI	Mbeya	TZ-Tanzania
23-271	KIOO VTC	Ilagala	TZ-Tanzania
23-280	MPAPA VTC	MBINGA	TZ-Tanzania
23-284	SOS CV	Lilongwe	MW-Malawi
23-294	Judith foundation	Mzuzu	MW-Malawi
23-311	SOFERES	Lilongwe	MW-Malawi
23-313	Y.E.	Blantyre	MW-Malawi
23-316	JIVS	Mwanza	TZ-Tanzania
23-801	Pioneer 3	Iganga	UG-Uganda
23-802	Prime 3	Iganga	UG-Uganda
23-804	Lords Meade 2	Njeru	UG-Uganda
23-805	Prime Entrepreneurial Workshop	Iganga	UG-Uganda
23-804	Lords Meade 2	Njeru	UG-Uganda
23-805	Prime Entrepreneurial Workshop	Iganga	UG-Uganda





# RESULTS 2025

In 2025, we once again saw the difference craftsmanship can make in people's lives. Together with our partners, volunteers, companies, and donors, we supported thousands of young people and skilled workers in building an independent livelihood. Our focus was not only on vocational education, but increasingly on entrepreneurship, practical experience, and income generation. Below are the key results achieved during the past year.

## PROJECTS AND PEOPLE REACHED

In 2025, Gered Gereedschap supported 43 organisations in Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi. Through technical training programmes, entrepreneurship initiatives, and the provision of tools and machinery, 9,082 young people and skilled workers gained access to better education, practical experience, and employment opportunities. Within various EQUIP projects, training programmes were strengthened in areas including construction, automotive engineering, plumbing, metalworking, and Fashion & Design.

## TOOLS AND CONTAINERS

Collecting, refurbishing, and shipping tools remained a key foundation of our work in 2025. From our workshops in the Netherlands, 112,118 tools and machines were prepared for shipment to our partners in Africa. In total, eight containers were shipped to projects in Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi. These tools enabled vocational training facilities to be equipped, workshops to be strengthened, and starting entrepreneurs to establish their businesses.

## EDUCATION AND PRACTICAL TRAINING

Through our education projects, hundreds of young people gained access to higher-quality vocational education. New practical training facilities were equipped with professional tools and machinery, allowing students to learn using equipment that reflects workplace realities. In addition, 24 teachers received training in technical and teaching skills, while 125 apprenticeship supervisors from local companies received training and support.

Connecting education with practical experience remains a key element of our approach. Students gained valuable work experience through apprenticeships, production assignments, and work-based learning opportunities. In total, 256 apprenticeship placements were created.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INCOME GROWTH

Entrepreneurship remained a major focus in 2025. In Uganda, the Entrepreneurial Workshop continued to develop as a central hub where young craftspeople can use machinery, rent tools, and receive coaching while setting up and growing their businesses.

Particularly successful were the Tailoring Satellites: a network of eight tailoring workshops in eastern Uganda where tailors can work together using professional production equipment. The results were clearly visible. The average daily income of participating tailors increased from USD 1.13 to USD 2.29 per day, enabling many participants to rise above the international poverty line.

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER

The results of 2025 demonstrate that the combination of quality tools, practical vocational education, and support for entrepreneurship works. Together with our partners, we are building local ecosystems in which young people and skilled workers not only learn a trade, but also gain the opportunity to earn an income and build a better future for themselves and their communities.

TOOLS SUPPLIED	
Classroom toolkits for 10 students	177
Individual starter kits	317
Sewing machines	1045
Other machines	739

# THE HUB FOR CRAFTS-PEOPLE IN IGANGA – BUILDING A BETTER INCOME THROUGH THE PRIME RENTAL WORKSHOP

“They have the skills. But without tools, workspace, and guidance, those skills do not generate an income.”

In Iganga, in eastern Uganda, a workshop is addressing exactly that challenge. The Prime Rental Workshop is a place where craftspeople can work – and where skills can be turned into a sustainable income. The workshop was established two years ago by Gered Gereedschap in partnership with Prime Vocational Institute.

Many young people in the region complete vocational training programmes. They learn trades such as welding, carpentry, and masonry. But after graduation, the real challenge begins. Paid employment opportunities are limited in Uganda, and many skilled workers need to create their own jobs. According to workshop manager Kagawa William, both young graduates and experienced craftspeople face similar obstacles.

“People often have the skills,” he explains. “But they lack the resources needed to turn those skills into a reliable income. They do not have access to tools and machinery, workspace, customers, or the knowledge required to run a business.”

## THE MISSING LINK TO INCOME

The Prime Rental Workshop was developed to bridge exactly that gap. The workshop functions as a shared professional hub where craftspeople have access to machinery, workspace, assignments, and entrepreneurial support. They can rent a workstation, work on their own assignments, or participate in joint production projects.

“The workshop was created so that people can use machinery and workspace that would normally be beyond their reach,” says William. “But it is about more than access to tools. People also learn how to approach customers, organise their work, and carry out assignments independently.”

## MORE ASSIGNMENTS, A BETTER LIFE

What makes the workshop unique is the collaboration between recent graduates and experienced craftspeople. This creates an environment where people not only work, but also learn from one another. At the same time, the workshop provides a clear link between vocational training and the labour market. While schools focus on learning, the workshop focuses on real customers, real assignments, and real deadlines.

According to William, the strength of the model lies precisely in this combination of activities. “All these elements together are what make the model work.” The impact is already visible. Craftspeople are able to work more efficiently, deliver higher-quality products and services, and take on more assignments. “People are given the opportunity to make real use of their skills,” William says. “And in doing so, they gradually build an independent income for themselves.”



Watch the video:

[www.geredgereedschap.nl/Rental-Workshop-Iganga](http://www.geredgereedschap.nl/Rental-Workshop-Iganga)



# TOGETHER

Gered Gereedschap is able to carry out its work thanks to the commitment of many dedicated people and organisations. Together, we work with great enthusiasm towards a shared goal: increasing the opportunities for vocational students and skilled workers in Africa to build a better future.

Everyone contributes in their own way, depending on their interests and possibilities. Some donate tools, others volunteer their time, provide financial support as private donors or charitable foundations, or contribute as companies by making people, expertise, or resources available.

## **VOLUNTEERS AT THE NATIONAL OFFICE**

Volunteers are the driving force behind Gered Gereedschap. In 2025, around fifteen volunteers worked alongside an unpaid board at the national office in Amsterdam. The national office supports the 23 workshops across the Netherlands. Staff and volunteers at the office assess support requests from Africa, coordinate national logistics and shipments, and are responsible for communications, donor relations, and fundraising activities.



## **WORKSHOP VOLUNTEERS**

Around 500 volunteers are active in the 23 Gered Gereedschap workshops throughout the Netherlands. They form the backbone of the organisation and contribute in ways that match their interests, skills, and ambitions. Some refurbish tools, others provide technical expertise, support communications activities, or serve as board members.





## DONORS

Gered Gereedschap continues to benefit from a stable and highly loyal group of donors. They form the foundation of our support base and are essential to the continuity of our organisation. Their trust and commitment enable us to continue our work and provide a stable foundation for future development.



## FOUNDATIONS

Charitable foundations are an important source of income for Gered Gereedschap. Successful cooperation with foundations is based on identifying shared interests and translating them into meaningful projects and activities. Gered Gereedschap maintains close relationships with a wide range of foundations, including Werelddiaconie PKN Gouda, AFAS Foundation, Stichting Bon Coeur, Stichting CCHO, De Elba Foundation, Stichting Goedhart, Maria Strootfonds, Stichting Saint Pierre Fourier, Stichting 't Trekpaert, Stichting GMO, Stichting Flow Traders Foundation, Stichting Berkenzathe, Stichting De Lichtboei, Stichting Pernis Gelderblom, De Vrims Foundation, Stichting Retourschip, Stichting Rocks Foundation, Private Stichting Bel Air, Wm. De Hoop Stichting, Stichting Vivace, Stichting Talent, and Stichting Summerfund.



## COMPANIES

Companies also regard Gered Gereedschap as a valuable partner in achieving their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) objectives. The ways in which businesses and organisations contribute vary widely. In 2025, Gered Gereedschap not only continued its long-standing partnerships with organisations including Praxis, Hilti, Groenhart, Bouwmaat, Ultimo Software, HBM, Nemad Groep, Jongeneel, and VolkerRail, but also established and strengthened new collaborations with partners such as Maak Techniek, Bouwgenius B.V., Indi.nl, LDG Services, Van Dorp, and many others.

# ORGANISATION

Gered Gereedschap consists of a national office in Amsterdam and a network of 23 local workshops spread across the Netherlands. The national office is responsible for developing, supervising, and financing projects. It also coordinates logistics, fundraising, and communications.

Project applications from Africa are assessed and then linked to one or more workshops, where volunteers refurbish the requested tools and machinery and prepare them for shipment. The national office subsequently coordinates transportation within the Netherlands and oversees shipment to Africa together with logistics partners.

Our organisation is built on cooperation. Workshops, volunteers, companies, collection points, donors, and partner organisations each contribute in their own way to the work of Gered Gereedschap. Although the workshops and the national office operate independently, together they form a nationwide network dedicated to strengthening craftsmanship and entrepreneurship in Africa.

## BOARD

In 2025, the Board of Stichting Dienstencentrum Gered Gereedschap consisted of four members. The Board safeguards the continuity of the organisation, establishes policy frameworks, and provides support on operational and organisational matters where required.

The composition of the Board in 2025 was as follows:

- A.J.H. (Arjan) van Dijk – Chairman
- L.T. (Laurens) Conijn – Treasurer
- E.C. (Kees) de Bouter – Secretary
- A.M.H. (Mieke) Schulte – Workshops

## PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING

The Projects & Fundraising team maintains relationships with partner organisations in Africa and develops new projects. Applications are carefully assessed based on criteria such as feasibility, reliability, and expected impact. Project plans are then developed and funding is secured to enable implementation.

Throughout the project cycle, intensive support is provided through progress meetings, reporting, and evaluations. In 2025, additional emphasis was placed on the development of a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework and on tools to

strengthen entrepreneurship, labour market integration, and the measurement of income growth among project participants.

## OPERATIONS

The Operations team coordinates the entire process from collection to shipment. Once projects have been approved, the workshops assemble the required toolkits and machinery. The team then organises transportation between workshops and coordinates international container shipments, including all necessary import and customs documentation.

In 2025, eight containers were shipped to projects in Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi. The long-standing cooperation with logistics partner De Baanderij once again proved invaluable. In 2025, De Baanderij also celebrated its 25th anniversary, marking an important milestone in a partnership that has lasted many years.

## FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Financial and project administration are centrally managed under the responsibility of the Treasurer. This includes overseeing the accurate processing of income, expenditures, project budgets, and financial reporting.

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing & Communication team is responsible for the external communication of Gered Gereedschap. Through the website, social media channels, newsletters, and the quarterly magazine GG-Bericht, volunteers, donors, companies, and other stakeholders are kept informed about projects and results.

The team also maintains relationships with companies and sponsors. In 2025, Gered Gereedschap was visibly present at several events. During the BouwBeurs trade fair in Utrecht, visitors and volunteers worked together to build 1,000 toolboxes for craftspeople in Africa.

In 2025, further investments were made in





videos and project stories to increase the visibility of project results. Stories from graduates, entrepreneurs, and tailors demonstrate how craftsmanship contributes to employment, income, and self-reliance.

### PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS

The day-to-day management of the organisation is entrusted to a small team of project managers responsible for Projects & Fundraising, Operations, and Marketing & Communications. They work on the basis of clear agreements and objectives. Thanks to this flexible organisational structure, Gered Gereedschap is able to operate efficiently with limited overhead costs.

Efforts also continued to strengthen the local organisation in Uganda. At the same time, 2025 demonstrated that building a stable local structure requires time and sustained attention. Following the departure of the local project manager, part of the project support was temporarily coordinated again from the Netherlands.

Department	Number of Volunteers	Paid staff hours
Board	4	
Office coordination	2	8 h
Projects and Fundraising	1	48 h
Operations	2	12 h
Marketing and communications	6	24 h
Gered Gereedschap Uganda		40 H



# FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2025, Gered Gereedschap was once again able to allocate a large proportion of its available resources directly to its mission: supporting people in Africa in building an independent livelihood through craftsmanship and entrepreneurship. A total of € 696,794 was spent on projects and activities, representing 74.5% of total expenditure.

Total income amounted to € 990,243 and remained stable compared to the previous year. Total expenditure amounted to € 935,132. Despite increased investments in fundraising and organisational development, Gered Gereedschap closed the year with a positive result of € 64,385. This result was partly influenced by received legacies.

An amount of € 73,138 was added to the continuity reserve, further strengthening the financial stability of the organisation. Designated funds decreased as previously received contributions were spent on project activities. In addition, € 51,234 was added to the appropriated reserve for future investments in our programmes.

The organisation remains financially healthy, with a solid liquidity position and limited fixed costs. At the same time, attracting new funds and establishing long-term partnerships remains an important priority in order to continue implementing projects that support large numbers of craftspeople in the future.

## BALANCE SHEET\*

ASSETS	31-12-2025	31-12-2024
Other receivables	786.00	3,323.00
Cash and cash equivalents	633,478.00	601,472.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>634,264.00</b>	<b>604,795.00</b>

LIABILITIES	31-12-2025	31-12-2024
Continuity reserve	270,358.00	197,220.00
Appropriated reserve	102,255.00	51,021.00
Designated funds	118,932.00	178,919.00
Current liabilities	142,719.00	177,635.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>634,264.00</b>	<b>604,795.00</b>

BREAKDOWN DESIGNATED FUNDS	31-12-2025	31-12-2024
Pioneer-3 project	5,863.00	14,194.00
Prime-3 project	18,171.00	12,665.00
Nile-3 project	38,000.00	38,000.00
Refurbish pilot project	9,474.00	32,163.00
Entrepreneurial WS project	32,424.00	117,001.00
From Knowledge to Competencies	13,000.00	
Prime 4 project	2,000.00	
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>118,932.00</b>	<b>178,919.00</b>

\*Amounts in €

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Private individuals income	136,761.00	133,266.00
Companies income	125,575.00	130,338.00
Equity funds income	310,470.00	455,561.00
Workshops income	345,395.00	300,895.00
Charitable trusts & foundations income	72,042.00	61,195.00
Other	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>990,243.00</b>	<b>1,081,255.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Project expenses	696,794.00	805,106.00
Fundraising costs	110,056.00	99,898.00
Management and administration costs beheer	128,282.00	100,844.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>935,132.00</b>	<b>1,005,848.00</b>
Financial income/expenses	9,274.00	10,497.00
<b>Profit/loss</b>	<b>64,385.00</b>	<b>85,904.00</b>
<b>PROFIT APPROPRIATION</b>		
Continuity reserve	73,138.00	25,065.00
Appropriated reserve	51,234.00	44,200.00
Designated funds	-59,987.00	16,639.00



CRAFTMANSHIP  
AS A BASIS FOR  
SELF-RELIANCE

Algemeen Nut  
Beogende Instelling

**ANBI**

Gered Gereedschap is making it work!

