



The Cocoa Snapshot Mid-year 2024-2025

Driving positive change in cocoa farming communities

2023



What is Cocoa Horizons?

The majority of the global cocoa crop is produced by smallholder farmers in remote equatorial regions. Smallholder cocoa farmers face considerable economic, social and environmental challenges such as limited resources to invest in their farm, aging cocoa trees, soil degradation, the effects of climate change, and often a lack of essential infrastructure such as access to clean water, electricity, paved roads, or high quality education.

To tackle these issues and support cocoa farming communities, Barry Callebaut established the Cocoa Horizons Foundation in 2015. Its mission is to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers through the promotion of sustainable and entrepreneurial farming practices, and to strengthen systems in cocoa communities ensuring that nature and children are protected.

The program operates in 7 countries through Barry Callebaut entities. In Côte d'Ivoire, we also collaborate with Touton and Sucden to expand our reach.

Transparency and impact are central to Cocoa Horizons. That is why each year we publish an independently audited report detailing progress against our goals, and how funds are used to achieve tangible results for farming communities.

Executive Summary

In the first half of the year, ongoing challenges in the cocoa sector highlighted the urgent need to secure future supply and strengthen the resilience of both cocoa farms and farming communities. Lower crop yields and challenging buying conditions led to reduced cocoa deliveries and purchases, significantly impacting volume-related KPIs. Despite this, Cocoa Horizons continued to collaborate closely with farmers, achieving solid progress in key areas:

- **Traceability & EUDR:** 97% full data collection on farmers, a milestone towards full traceability, and compliance with the upcoming EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation) legislation.
- **Agroforestry:** Millions of quality shade tree seedlings were produced across regions in Cocoa Horizons nurseries and will be delivered to cocoa farmers and cooperatives by end of the year.
- **Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Disease (CSSVD):** 100 hectare established to test best practices that can fight and prevent the virus.
- **Human Rights:** Cocoa Horizons partnered with three international child rights organizations to promote our **holistic community systems approach** and target underlying enablers of child labor. Additionally, Cocoa Horizons enabled Integrated Child Protection Case Management to work closely with formal Child Protection structures.

We remain strong in our belief and commitment to scaling impact and driving change in cocoa farming communities.

To access the all our reports, follow this link:

<https://www.cocoa Horizons.org/reports>



By partnering with Cocoa Horizons, you support the UN Sustainable Development Goals:
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>

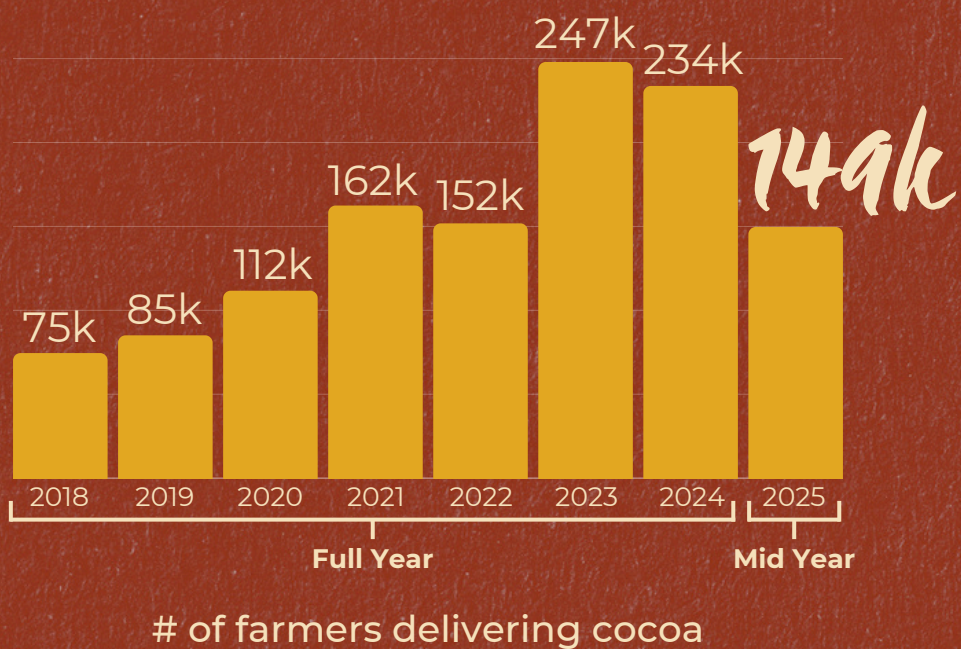
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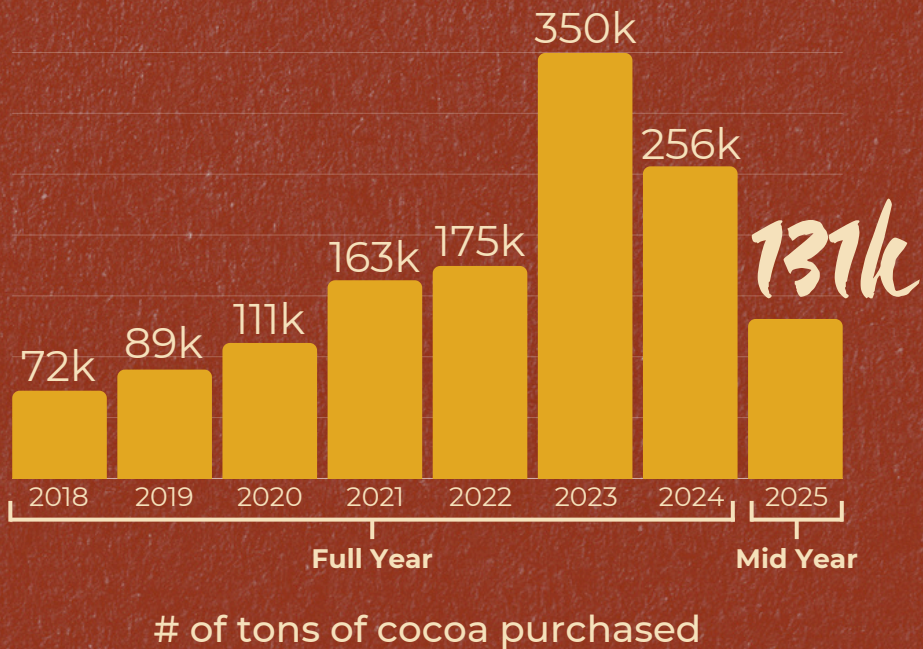
Key Highlights: Global

A LOWER CROP YIELD AND CHALLENGING BUYING CONDITONS DISRUPTED DELIVERIES AND PURCHASES

254
farmer groups
(-25% vs mid-year 2024)



-27%
tons of cocoa
purchased vs prior
mid-year



STRENGTHENING TRACEABILITY

97%
of farmers delivering
cocoa from fully mapped
farms

SUPPORTING FARMERS

68,387
of cocoa farmers who received
a Farm Business Plan

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

98%
of farmer groups in our direct supply
chain covered by child labor monitoring
and/or remediation activities

ACCESS TO LOANS

CHF 409k
total amount saved through
Village Savings and Loans
Associations (VSLAs)

The farmers we support

Direct engagement with cocoa farmers and the collection of firsthand data enable Cocoa Horizons to tailor its activities to individual farms and effectively address the complex challenges facing cocoa communities. This proactive approach forms the foundation of a robust system designed to meet upcoming EU regulatory requirements.

KEY DATA AND FACTS

254 -25%
vs prior year

Farmer groups delivering cocoa

68,387

of cocoa farmers who received a Farm Business Plan

149,695 -24%
vs prior year

Farmers delivering cocoa

98%

of farmer groups in our direct supply chain covered by child labor monitoring and/or remediation activities

131,024 -27%
vs prior year

Tons of cocoa purchased

3,859

of shade trees distributed (major part will be distributed in the second half of the year)

97% +12%
vs prior year

of farmers delivering with fully mapped plots



Prospering farmers

Historically high global cocoa prices topped with cocoa shortage mainly due to changing weather patterns, diseases and lack of investment are the reasons behind the difficult start of the year. Cocoa Horizons is embracing this uncertainty and continues its work to enhance farmer livelihoods and sustainable cocoa farming practices.

Less training, more doing.

We continue our action-oriented strategy:

- **Farm Business Plans (FBPs):**
68,387 tailored recommendations were made during one to one coaching visits to farmers on how to optimize yield on their cocoa farms. Despite a 27% decrease in FBP compared to the previous year, we expect a pick up of FBPs in the next half of the year.
- **Productivity Packages:**
the value of productivity packages in boosting yields and income, particularly with the right application of fertilizers and insecticides is increasingly recognized among farmers. To maximize impact, we are timing distribution to coincide with the rainy season. This year, the late arrival of the rain delayed the distribution of packages, hence the 60% decrease vs prior year.
- **Cocoa Seedling Distribution:**
For the first time since 2018, Cocoa Horizons is raising and distributing cocoa seedlings for a cocoa regeneration effort in Côte d'Ivoire. 1.3 million cocoa seedlings have

been raised and the distribution is due in the second half of the year.

- **CSSV pilot**
In the last years there has been an increased incidence of cocoa swollen shoot virus disease (CSSVD) in Côte d'Ivoire. The virus is estimated to potentially threaten 15-20% of the country's cocoa production in the next decade. Cocoa Horizons established a 100 hectare pilot project to provide a comprehensive framework to fight against CSSVD in selected areas with increased disease pressure.
- **Income Generating Activities**
We significantly raised the support for income diversification and income generation activities to reach 5,803 community members and foster greater economic resilience within cocoa communities. IGAs have demonstrated positive results in providing income diversification for farmers, particularly during off-peak seasons.

Looking Ahead

For the remainder of the year, our focus will be on scaling pre-harvest support, ramping up Farm Business Plans, and distributing the majority of productivity packages and quality seedlings. All this will be guided by farmer data, allowing us to tailor services more effectively to the evolving needs of cocoa communities.

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We did all this work, raising 1,3 million cocoa seedlings. We start by washing the received cocoa seeds. Then once they germinate we saw them. The best part comes when the seedlings start to grow. I love the little greens coming up, that is really inspiring and nice for me.

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Salimata Bossim
Nursery worker
Tiassalé, Côte d'Ivoire



Prospering farmers



149,695

farmers delivering cocoa

↪ -24%
vs prior year



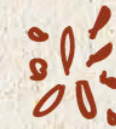
68,387 -27% vs prior year

farmers who received a Farm Business Plan



1,300

farmers receiving a Productivity Package
(majority of the packages will be distributed in the second half of the year)



29,391

Cocoa seedlings distributed in Indonesia with other countries scheduled for the second half of the year.



Empowered Communities

Strengthening Systems

Our new human rights strategy is in full swing. We are transitioning from an approach focused on monitoring and detection —based on child labor monitoring through individual household member surveys— towards a child protection approach focused on **prevention and response**.

- **Farm Observation Survey**

This half of the fiscal year, we continued piloting our tool called Farm Observation Survey (FOS) across the four sourcing countries in Africa. We trained our staff and coaches on observing and identifying child labor and other potential human rights risks and concerns in the field. The training also focused on communication skills to support the implementation of the farm observation survey to verify, mitigate and address human rights violations through a conversation with cocoa producers.

- **Integrated Child Protection Case Management**

In the previous year (2023/2024), we started partnering with expert organizations in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon to promote Integrated Child Protection Case Management working in collaboration with local authorities

(formal child protection services). Through our NGO partners, we build the capacity and support the child protection case management procedure of the local child protection structures.

- **Community Systems Strengthening**

In FY 2024/25, we kicked off our Community Systems Approach across Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria with an outreach of a total of 31,028 adults (directly and indirectly) and 34,725 children (directly and indirectly). The approach is built around five interconnected components (see graph on the next page) that help establish a protective environment for children. By improving resilience to structural vulnerabilities, it tackles the root causes and drivers of child labor in a sustainable and locally anchored way.

Looking Ahead

Ultimately, our goal is to continue refining our approach to mobilize more resources toward preventing and mitigating child labor and toward creating an environment where children are empowered and protected and aware of their rights and are active in shaping their community.

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Our cocoa farm has been included in the Cocoa Horizons program, which is one of our steps toward practicing sustainable agriculture. I am actively involved in a business group called "IGA Kuajang", an initiative driven by women farmers in our village.

Together, we process and market packaged coffee. We believe that small businesses like ours are not just about selling products. They are our way of preserving heritage, strengthening the role of women in rural areas, and planting hope for a more independent future by increasing additional income for our members.

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Hasmia
Member of IGA Kuajang*, Cocoa Farmer
Kuajang, Indonesia

*IGA = Income Generating Activities



Five components of the Community Systems Approach

Outputs

Effectively functioning child protection systems

Improved community infrastructure

Improved access to quality education

Improved access to livelihood-strengthening tools

Expanded & effective multi-stakeholder collaboration

Activities



Child Protection Committee at community level

Government mandated to prevent, assess, and remediate child rights violations effectively



Community Action Plan and support of infrastructure

addressing community development needs



School-level activities

supporting learning and child well-being in schools



Livelihood strengthening tools

Enhancing household assets, financial knowledge, and access to income, savings, and resources



Multi-stakeholder collaboration

Active collaboration and engagement with local, national and international stakeholders

Empowered Communities



98%

of farmer groups in our direct supply chain covered by child labor monitoring and remediation activities



615

+5%
vs prior year

VSLAs established or functioning



7,286

+14%
vs prior year

child labor cases identified



67.2% -10%
vs prior year

of VSLA members are women



23,504

child labor cases under remediation



CHF 409,026

total amount saved through VSLAs



child labor cases remediated will be reported at the end of the year



CHF 252,679

total amount loaned through VSLAs

Thriving Nature

Halfway through the year, Cocoa Horizons continues to progress towards a traceable and deforestation-free cocoa supply chain.

We have reached a milestone in traceability and continue with our robust agroforestry plan to manage shade and raising farmer awareness on environmental protection.

Traceability

We are very close to our traceability target; achieving 97% coverage in full data collection across member farmers. Flagged plots for potential deforestation are receiving on-site field inspections and only plots with complete and accurate information are eligible for Cocoa Horizons validation. Cocoa Horizons cocoa will comply with the EU Deforestation Free regulation (EUDR) requirements by the end of 2025.

Agroforestry

The enhanced rate of agroforestry adoption among cocoa farmers also helps the diversification of farming household income. Each planted tree is monitored by Cocoa Horizons and Payments for Environmental Services are distributed for thriving trees.

Shade management

To increase cocoa resilience to climate change it is essential to find the right balance in shade. Too little shade leads to increased heat stress, soil degradation and disease outbreaks, while too much shade can reduce cocoa yields. Cocoa Horizons is supporting cocoa farmers to find the right balance on their farms and distributes a variety of fruit and forest trees to farmers and cooperatives.

Looking ahead

We continue to improve our agroforestry efforts and build digital tools for post planting and seedling monitoring. Seedling distribution will peak in the rainy season to optimize survival rates.

Furthermore, our established robust deforestation-free due diligence process is supporting our partners in meeting EUDR standards and ensuring our journey toward a sustainable and compliant future remains both impactful and effective.

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The key benefit of agroforestry is, that it allows us to preserve nature, naturally. If we don't have big trees in cocoa farms to protect the plantation from the harsh effects of climate change, the cocoa trees will die. We have practiced agroforestry methods in the past—though in a more traditional way. Now, with Cocoa Horizons we're working in a modern context, collaborating and exchanging ideas.

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Ármel Noubissi Rodríguez
Cocoa Farmer
Mbaŋga, Cameroon



Thriving Nature



97% +12%

vs prior year

of farmers delivering cocoa with farm size and location data.



CHF 41k

Payment for Ecosystem Services to farmers (majority will be paid out in Q4)



3,859

Shade tree seedlings distributed to farmers in Côte d'Ivoire. Other countries scheduled for second half of the year.



10,254

Farmers trained on environmental protection this half of the year.



Our Forest Positive Approach and EUDR

Next to our efforts on traceability and agroforestry, and in partnership with Barry Callebaut, we are taking significant steps to meet our forest-positive objectives and comply with EUDR due diligence requirements.

Cocoa Horizons follows Barry Callebaut's comprehensive risk assessment approach, evaluating risks at country, regional, supplier, and farm levels. Additionally, supply chain tools to assess and mitigate risks of non-compliance are embedded into the various sourcing steps of Cocoa Horizons products.

This robust due diligence approach, coupled with investment in forest protection in landscapes where cocoa is at high risk of being associated with non-compliance for EUDR, ensures that Barry Callebaut will demonstrate no or negligible risk of non-compliance for Cocoa Horizons products from high-risk countries entering the EU market.

How to tell your sustainability story?

By being a Cocoa Horizons partner you have access to a rich communication toolkit accessible on the [Cocoa Horizons website](#) via login. The toolkit contains videos, pictures, logos, claims, posters etc. With these tools, we want to help you engage your customers on sustainability, show how you are committed to drive impact and increase the demand for sustainable cocoa.

Our communication toolkit: to drive awareness and differentiate your brand online, offline and on pack

- Videos
- Imagery
- Logos and claims
- QR code
- Brochure
- Roll-up banner
- Posters
- Stickers
- Application tags
- Cocoa Horizons Certificates
- Social Media



Be part of
the story,
join Cocoa
Horizons

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