



The Cocoa Snapshot Mid-year 2025-2026

Driving positive change in cocoa farming communities



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

Cocoa production continues to face deep structural challenges. Price volatility, accelerated impacts of climate change, and spread of diseases increasingly add to the vulnerability of future supply. We must hasten efforts to strengthen the resilience of both cocoa farms and farming communities. This half of the year, Cocoa Horizons continued to collaborate closely with farmers and drive field level action in key areas:

- **Traceability & EUDR:** 99% full data collection on farmers, a milestone towards full traceability, and compliance with the upcoming EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation) legislation.
- **Agroforestry:** Our key focus remains on establishing and maintaining optimal shade levels. Besides continuing to expand the core agroforestry program, Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) is gaining momentum.
- **Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Disease (CSSVD):** This is the second year of our 100 hectare CSSVD pilot. The past six months have focused on monitoring progress, assessing mortality rates of the newly established protective barriers on the cleared plots. Preparations are underway for the planting of cocoa seedlings.
- **Human Rights:** Cocoa Horizons works with three international child rights organizations to promote our **holistic child protection community systems approach** addressing the interconnected root causes of child labor and improving the child protection situation in cocoa communities. We continue to reinforce our Integrated Child Protection Case Management approach, and work closely with national Child Protection systems to support identified child labor cases.

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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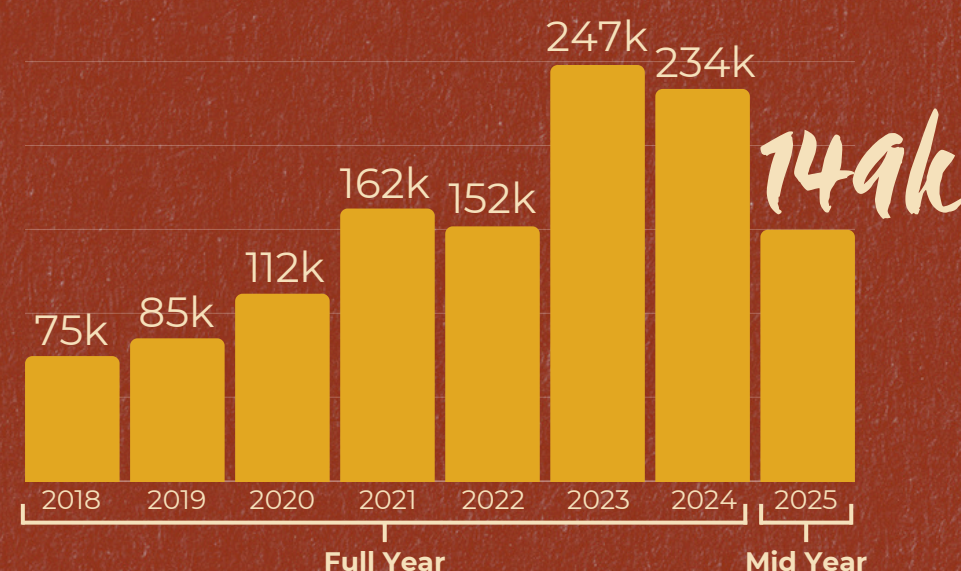


Key Highlights: Global

COMPARED WITH THE DIFFICULT 24/25 SEASON, DELIVERIES FOR THE 25/26 CROP SHOW A MARKED IMPROVEMENT

225

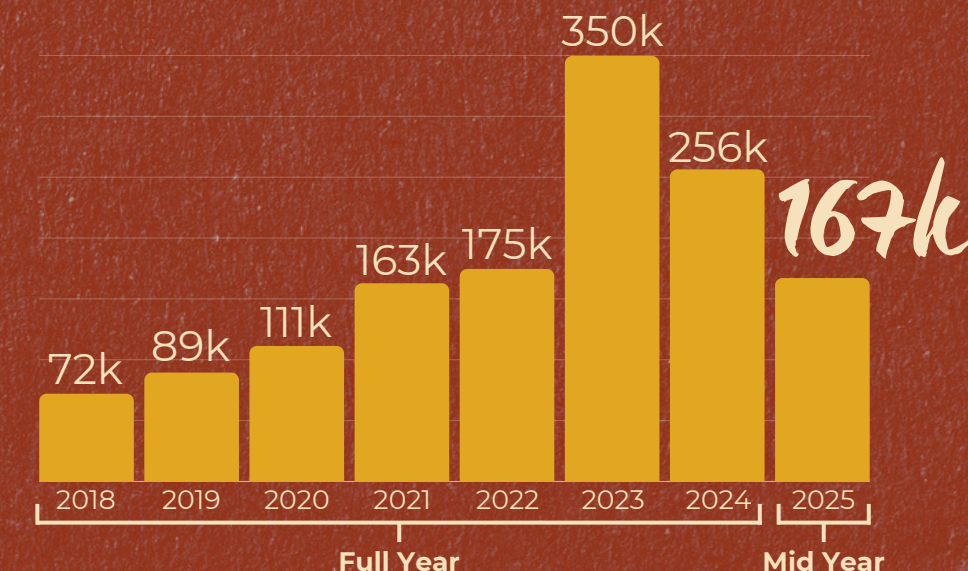
farmer groups
(-11% vs mid-year 2025)



of farmers delivering cocoa

+28%

tons of cocoa
purchased vs prior
mid-year



of tons of cocoa purchased

STRENGTHENING TRACEABILITY

99%

of farmers delivering
cocoa from fully mapped
farms

SUPPORTING FARMERS

44,326

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 244k

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

225 ^{-11%}
vs prior mid-year

Farmer groups delivering cocoa

44,326
of cocoa farmers who received a Farm Business Plan

149,792 ^{+1%}
vs prior mid-year

Farmers delivering cocoa

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

167,123 ^{+28%}
vs prior mid-year

Tons of cocoa purchased

82,108
of shade trees distributed (major part will be distributed in the second half of the year)

99% ^{+3%}
vs prior mid-year

of farmers delivering with fully mapped plots



Prospering Farmers

Cocoa production continues to face deep structural challenges. Smallholder farmers constrained by aging plantations, soil degradation, and limited access to inputs struggle to keep pace with the accelerating impacts of climate change, market volatility, and persistent social issues. The sector must accelerate efforts that boost productivity and reinforce the resilience of farming systems. The Cocoa Horizons Foundation embraces this reality and continues to drive practical, field level action to modernize cocoa farming.

Less training, more doing.

We continue our farmer-centric, action-oriented strategy:

- **Farm Business Plans (FBPs):**
44,326 tailored farm diagnostics were completed, providing farmers with individualized Farm Business Plan recommendations on agri-input packages, shade management, access to improved planting material and soil health practices to help farmers optimize yield on their cocoa farms. Despite a 35% decrease compared to the previous mid-year, the relevance of FBPs is high, and we are working towards raising this number in the next half of the year.
- **Productivity Packages:**
the value of productivity packages (PP) in boosting yields and income is increasingly recognized among farmers, especially when these packages are offered at a preferential or subsidized price. PP composition varies by country, combining fertilizers, fungicides, insecticides, or tailored mixes depending on context-specific agronomic needs. This year, Indonesia and Cameroon initiated PP distribution much earlier than last year, resulting in a 348% increase in the number of farmers receiving productivity packages (5,825 farmers).

- **Cocoa Seedling Distribution:**

Due to favorable weather conditions, most of the countries have initiated distribution, resulting in 148,374 cocoa seedlings delivered, a 405% increase compared to the same period last year. Moreover, we are working on adjusting the nursery structure and support the creation of community or coop level nurseries.

- **CSSV Barrier Crop Pilot**

Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus (CSSV) remains a serious threat to cocoa production in West Africa. This year, Cocoa Horizons continued work on the 100-hectare pilot in **Côte d'Ivoire** with plots now cleared and protective barriers established—using coffee, acacia, or a combination of the two, complemented by banana and shade trees—the past six months have focused on monitoring progress, assessing mortality rates for replacement, and preparing cocoa seedlings for planting scheduled in April/May.

- **Income Generating Activities**

We supported income diversification and income generating activities (IGAs) for 2,939 community members (-49.35%). This decrease is only temporary: due to delayed data submissions from Côte d'Ivoire. IGAs continue to demonstrate strong results, offering farmers meaningful opportunities to diversify their income, particularly during off-peak seasons.

Looking Ahead

For the remainder of the year, our focus will be on scaling pre-harvest support, ensuring the timely distribution of the majority of productivity packages and quality seedlings. These efforts will be guided by the data collected through the farm diagnostic, which provides the foundation for a multi-year Farm Business Plan tailored to each farmer's needs and potential.

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I am one of the few women working in this area. I believe that both women and men can excel in this job, and should be able to do so without prejudice.

Today, I coordinate sustainability activities for seven farmer groups representing approximately 2,000 cocoa farmers and supervise 10 sustainability officers.

Our work includes plantation assessments, training, plant protection treatments, tackling human rights issues, and promoting agroforestry - all to help farmers improve the productivity of their plantations.

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Marie France Odile Ngono
Sustainability Area Coordinator
Mbam, Cameroon



Prospering Farmers



149,792

farmers delivering cocoa

↪ +1%
vs prior mid-year



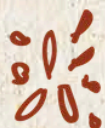
44,326 -35% vs prior mid-year

farmers who received a Farm Business Plan. We continue working on raising the number of plans in the second half of the year.



5,825

farmers receiving a Productivity Package



148,374

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



Empowered Communities

Community Systems Strengthening

In FY 2025/26, we continued implementing our Community Systems Approach across Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria. The approach is structured around five interconnected levels of strategic engagement (see graph on the next page) aimed at strengthening community-based systems to protect children from violence, exploitation, and child labour in cocoa-growing areas.

- **Farm Observation Survey**

This half of the fiscal year, we continued piloting our Farm Observation Survey (FOS) across the four sourcing countries in Africa. The focus was on training our staff and coaches to be able to **observe and identify** human rights concerns and incidents in the field, as well as to **improve safeguarding and communication skills** to verify, mitigate and address human rights violations through a conversation with cocoa producers.

- **Number of child labor cases identified**

In our reporting, the number of child labor cases identified is decreasing this fiscal year due to the transitioning of our human rights strategy from an approach based on child labor monitoring via individual household member surveys, towards a child protection approach focused on prevention and response,

including observation-based reporting of potential human rights concerns, such as child labor incidents. This shift in child labor monitoring is due to our emphasis on child safeguarding in our strategy and programming, as well as advice from child rights and child protection experts to respect our role and responsibility as a private company within a child protective system and therefore move away from interacting directly with children.

- **Integrated Child Protection Case Management**

We continue partnering with expert organizations in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria 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.

Looking Ahead

Ultimately, our goal is 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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With play-based learning, the children are happy to participate because they are learning while playing. It helps them understand the lessons better and remember what they have learned. We have seen improvements in their confidence, participation, and attendance. Some out-of-school children even become interested in coming to school after seeing the activities taking place.

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Rebecca
Right to Play-trained Teacher
Ahafo Region, Ghana





Empowered Communities



98%

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



178 ^{-71%}
vs prior mid-year

VSLAs established or functioning (Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire will be reported at the second half of the year)



2,084 ^{-71%}
vs prior mid- year

child labor cases identified. This KPI is affected by the transitioning of our strategy, see explanation on previous page.



76% ^{+13%}
vs prior mid-year

of VSLA members are women



15,220

child labor cases under remediation



56,097 ^{new KPI}

People reached by community programs (directly and indirectly)



19,363

child labor cases remediated



CHF 291,161

total amount saved through VSLAs



CHF 244,218

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. In addition, we continue with the roll out of our robust agroforestry program to manage shade and raise farmer awareness on environmental protection.

Traceability

We are nearing our traceability target, with 99% of member farmers covered by full data collection. All plots flagged for potential deforestation are undergoing desk and/or field verification as per our protocol, and only those with complete and verified data are eligible for Cocoa Horizons verification. Cocoa Horizons cocoa is on track to meet EUDR compliance requirements by the end of 2026.

Agroforestry and Shade management

Cocoa Horizons has continued to expand its agroforestry program this year, with additional farmers enrolled across both the core program and the Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) pilot, which has also been extended to the Western region of Côte d'Ivoire.

A key focus remains supporting farmers to manage shade appropriately.

Cocoa Horizons provides farm-specific guidance and distributes a mix of fruit and forest tree species, enabling farmers to adjust shade levels based on their farm conditions.

All planted trees are monitored, with Payments for Environmental Services linked to tree survival and maintenance, helping to encourage sustained engagement over time.

Looking ahead

We will continue to strengthen our agroforestry efforts, with a focus on supporting farmers in establishing and maintaining optimal shade levels. Seedling distribution will intensify during the rainy season to maximize survival rates and ensure successful establishment.

At the same time, we will further scale our forest protection initiatives while continuing to strengthen our deforestation-free due diligence processes. This will support our partners in meeting EUDR requirements and ensure that our transition toward a sustainable and compliant supply chain remains robust and credible.

“

There were many spontaneous trees in my farm but I used to spend a lot of time and efforts into planting trees from plantation projects.

Thanks to the ANR project, I invest my time better as I do not need to plant trees anymore.

”

Fouaki Appia
Cocoa Farmer
Abengourou, Côte d'Ivoire



Thriving Nature



99% **+3%** vs prior mid-year

of farmers delivering cocoa with farm size and location data.



Payment for Ecosystem Services to farmers will be paid out in Q4.



82,108

Shade tree seedlings distributed to farmers in Ghana, Cameroon, Ecuador, Nigeria. Other countries scheduled for second half of the year.



97%

Cocoa demonstrated not to be contributing to deforestation.



Our Forest Positive Approach and EUDR

Following the recent updates from the European Commission and the EUDR simplification package, we continue to refine and enhance our approach to remain aligned with evolving regulatory expectations and implementation guidance.

By the original EUDR implementation timeline in 2025, Barry Callebaut and Cocoa Horizons Foundation had already established compliant sourcing processes for Cocoa Horizons products in line with the requirements applicable at that time. During the reporting period, we have continued to work closely together to strengthen these processes and further advance our forest-positive objectives.

Barry Callebaut has maintained and continuously enhanced its comprehensive, risk-based due diligence system, assessing deforestation and non-compliance risks across country, regional, supplier, and farm levels. At the same time, supply chain tools to assess, prevent, and mitigate these risks have been further integrated into sourcing processes for Cocoa Horizons products.

These efforts are complemented by ongoing investments in forest protection and restoration in high-risk cocoa landscapes. Together, these measures support regulatory compliance while contributing to our broader Forest Positive commitments and the long-term resilience of cocoa-growing communities and ecosystems.

How to tell your sustainability story?

As a Cocoa Horizons partner, you have access to a comprehensive communication toolkit through the Cocoa Horizons website. The toolkit includes videos, images, logos, approved claims, posters, and other communication materials designed to support your sustainability communications.

These resources help you engage consumers on sustainability, showcase your commitment to driving positive impact, and inspire greater demand for sustainably sourced 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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